

If your Life Group is new, take the first 15- 20 minutes to get to know each other better. Start by asking each person to introduce themselves - "Tell us about yourself and your family. What kind of work do you do? How long have you been coming to our church?"

In future sessions, keep asking questions that will enable the members of the group to get to know each other better. Ask one or two new "Opening Question" each week for the first 4-6 meetings of your group. Some additional questions might include:

- A. What is your favorite food or dessert? Explain how this came to be your favorite.
- B. What kind of hobbies or interests do you enjoy (golf, cooking, gardening, reading, etc?) Explain more about why you enjoy this kind of activity.
- C. What is your most memorable vacation or travel experience? OR - share where you would like to travel or vacation if you had the time and resources.
- D. Share with the group something you like to "collect" ex. baseball cards, stamps, coins, ceramic dolls, art, etc. How did you get started collecting these? Ask people to bring an example to your next meeting (Show & Tell)
- E. Ask people to share what kind of musical instruments they play and how they got started. OR - Ask them what instrument they wish they had learned to play.
- F. Ask people what is their favorite dinner food or their favorite restaurant. Ask them to explain why they like this kind of food or cuisine.

### **Study Questions for Isaiah**

1. The prophet Isaiah spoke during the reigns of four of Judah's Kings in the 700's BC. See Isaiah 1:1 / II Kings 15:1 - II Kings 20:21 (Note: Uzziah & Azariah are the same king) How many presidents led our nation during the years of Billy Graham's ministry from 1950 to 2008? Can you name them?
2. The primary reason that God pronounced judgment on Judah is their idolatry. The people of Judah built and worshipped idols. (Isaiah 1:1-4 / 44:9-17) Can you think of any cultures that still worship idols today? Are there any "idols" (things that people trust in and rely upon instead of trusting in God) in our culture today? Explain –
3. How did Isaiah respond when God called him to speak to the nation of Judah? (6:1-8) Why do you think God uses people to tell other people about Himself? Are there some friends or family members that you think God wants you to tell them about Jesus?
4. Isaiah chapter 40 speaks about the incomparable nature of God. ("Who will you compare God to" 40:18 / 40:25) If you have time, read Isaiah 40:18-31. What contrasts and comparisons does Isaiah provide about God's nature, character and power? What encouragement does he provide in verse 28-31?
5. Isaiah 53 provides a vivid preview of the sufferings of the Messiah 600 years later. If you have time, slowly read through this chapter and see how many images and details are included that picture the suffering and death of Jesus in the New Testament. Compare: I Peter 1:10-12 / 2:21-25 / Luke 24:44-48
6. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue in Nazareth. He makes the startling statement that "today this scripture has been fulfilled". What are some ways that Jesus fulfilled the words of Isaiah during His ministry on earth?

7. What are some of the things that Jesus has instructed us to do impact the world we live in today?  
(Matthew 28:19-20 / Galatians 6:9-10 / Titus 3:8 / 3:14)
8. What are some ways that you can "speak" for God today by your actions and words?
9. Share a specific example of what you will do this week to tell others about Him. Be ready to report to your group next week!