

**WEEK 1 | BRUISED REEDS AND BROKEN HEARTS  
ISAIAH 42:1-9**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)**

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin as a tool to do so. If you haven't had a chance yet, make sure and do the Community Group Self-Assessment.

**ENGAGE (10 MINUTES)**

Starter Questions: What's your dream job? (it has to be different than what you're doing now)

**REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)**

*From now until Easter we're going to be looking at the latter chapters of Isaiah, particularly focusing in on the Suffering Servant. This week we're looking at Isaiah 42.*

*This is the first of four Servant Songs, fulfilled in Jesus Christ (cf. 49:1–13; 50:4–9; 52:13–53:12). Isaiah sprinkles references to “the servant of the Lord” throughout chs. 40–55.*

*Often “the servant” is a title for the people as a whole (41:8–9; 42:19; 43:10; 44:1–2, 21, 26; 45:4; 48:20), but at times the servant is a specific person within Israel who is distinct from the whole, with a calling to serve Israel and beyond (49:5–6; 50:10; see notes on 52:13; 53:11).*

- 1.) Read Isaiah 42:1-9. What stands out to you as significant, challenging, or confusing?
- 2.) Verses 1-4 contain words from God to the people of Israel. What do you learn about the role of the Servant? Contrast the Servant with the idols the people were tempted to trust in 41:24, 29.
- 3.) In Matthew 12, these words are applied to Jesus. Can you think of any examples from his life that seem to confirm Jesus' identity as the Suffering Servant?

- 4.) Verses 5-7 describe the words of God the Father to the Servant. What do you learn about their relationship? about the Servant's mission?
- 5.) Verses 8-9 describe God's attitude toward idols. If idols are simply those things we are tempted to trust and hope in rather than God, what idols are most prevalent in our culture? Which are you most tempted to place your hope in?
- 6.) How does this text help us live in community?
- 7.) How does this passage help form us for mission?
- 8.) On Sunday Josh listed several possible applications: 1.) Grow in the likeness of the servant-king (both boldness and tenderness); 2.) Pursue the mission of the servant (pursuing justice; and the broken reeds and faintly burning wicks); 3.) Meditate on God's love for us (Jesus was bruised so that he might heal our bruises). Which of these areas can you take a step forward in this week? Is there another application God is calling you to make from this text?

**PRAYER (15 MINUTES)**

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.