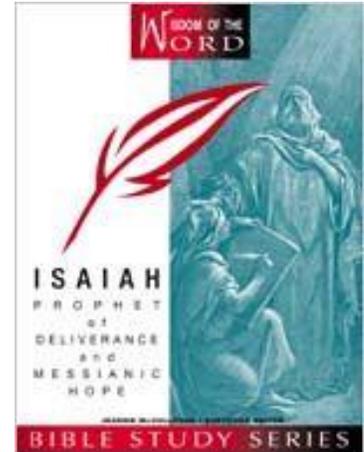


Coming back together from COVID with the *Wisdom of the Word*

By Rhonda Slingerland

This last year has been a great challenge for all of us. Certainly, it has had its own set of issues for adult Sunday school classes. Our class used a different devotional series each week from a Bible app, encouraged each other during the week through text messages, then on Sunday, we met online for an hour to talk about the series' theme. Once we started meeting again in person, however, there was a real desire to get into a book of the Bible in depth rather than to have a different topic each week. I wanted to find something written from a Nazarene perspective that really helped us to understand the Scripture.



Finding a Curriculum that Meets our Diverse Needs

We wanted a curriculum that would allow us to have some type of devotional each day that led up to the lesson on Sunday together. This was such an integral part of our experience last year, and we wanted to continue to encourage people to get into the Word every day and not just on Sunday.

We decided to try the *Wisdom of the Word* Bible study series to meet this need. It comes in a paperback workbook format and is available from The Foundry and online through Amazon.

According to The Foundry's website:

"The Wisdom of the Word Bible Study books are great resources for Sunday School classes, small-groups, independent Bible studies, or anyone interested in deepening his/her understanding of the Bible and the amazing truth found in the Christian faith."

Jeannie McCullough founded Wisdom of the Word in 1986 when she was a pastor's wife in Bethany, Oklahoma. It began as a weekly Bible study at a local church and within the first year grew to more than 400 members. Today, Wisdom of the Word continues to thrive in churches and in home groups around the country and has proven to be an effective instrument in uniting believers as well as reaching the unchurched and the lost."

We are in Part 1 of the book of Isaiah (Isaiah is divided into two parts because it has 66 chapters). The workbook is divided up into 10 different "lessons" with six days of content. We have been using it so that we do one "lesson" a week together on Sunday, and those of us that desire an in-depth study can do so in anticipation of our class by moving through daily study for those six days.

User Friendly Methods

Each of the six days has approximately two pages of information and questions, so it is not extremely difficult to do this. A few folks in our class like to go through the questions but others do not. They just skip to the written information portions. Some have purchased the workbook, and others feel free to just read the assigned chapters from Isaiah and come to class ready to discuss. Others can just come to class with no preparation, and we will read and discuss key passages and themes for each lesson. It is not required to have the workbook to participate in the class.

As the teacher, each week I go through all six days of information and questions in order to prepare my lesson for Sunday's class. I have found the material to be thorough and doctrinally sound. In addition, finding good themes for discussion has not been a problem.

Our class is small and we are in the process of welcoming people back to meeting in person. It is our hope that our study of the Scripture, the written Word of God, will draw others in and help to provide a solid foundation for becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.