

# Community Group Question Guide

## Isaiah 5:8-30 – **Final Argument: Case Against Humanity**

- this is a long and rather difficult text to sort out. Let's look at it from the perspective of "woes," of which there are six in this passage: verses 8, 11, 18, 20, 21, and 22.
- *Woes* are ways of God warning his people – woe!, ah!, oh!, alas! They are calls to attention, warnings, ways to say with weight and urgency "*change your ways...*"
- just prior, in verses 1-7, God gave his people a powerful story using metaphor to reveal and convict them of their sin. In the rest of chapter 5, He further details his case against them. It is our job to understand their sin in the context of their world as much as we can, seek to understand how that might relate to us in ours, and ask that the Lord would help us understand how he wants to reveal sin to us and transform our lives
- read verses 8-10. What are the people doing and why is this sin? What are the ultimate outcomes of their sin? Canaan was meant to be an abundant land of milk and honey, but what has it become as a result?
- read verses 11-17. What are the people doing and why is this sin? Is it wrong for the people to enjoy life? What are the ultimate outcomes of their sin?
- read verses 18-19. This is perhaps the most difficult *woe* for us to understand due to the imagery used. Zero in on the following phrases: *corde of falsehood* and the last two lines of V19. What is being contrasted and by extension, what do you think is the sin of the people in this *woe*?
- read verse 20: What are the people doing and why is this sin? We can all think of ways our culture and world at large do these things, but what about us as the church, the extension of Israel? Get personal: *do we / do I fall into this sin? How so?*
- read verse 21: What are the people doing and why is this sin?
- read verses 22-23: What are the people doing and why is this sin?
- read verses 24 to the chapter's end. What are the consequences of these lives of sin?
- Reflect and pray: *it is easy to nod our heads and point to the world, other churches, even others in our own church and declare them guilty of some or all of these sins. Instead, ask the Lord to humble your hearts and reveal to you any ways in which you are reflected in these woes.*
- Acknowledge and confess. Share with others in your group if you are willing.
- How do you long to be transformed? Ask the Lord to do that work in you.