

# NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

## Isaiah 61: The year of the Lord's favour.

### A royal announcement:

things are going to change (v1)

and God will make it happen (v11)

### 1. What is the mission of God (where are we heading)?

God's mission is to take us from a place of separation from him to the place of reunion with him

1. God's purpose in creation of making a people who relate to him
2. Our problem of rebellion that separates us from God and his purposes
3. God's purpose of redemption – God bringing us back into forgiven relationship with him
4. God's purpose of new creation is the day of redemption when Jesus returns and all God's people know physical resurrection and a life of perfect purpose on a perfect new earth.

Preach good news: broken hearts will be mended

captives freed

those in darkness will be released into light.

### 2. Why is the mission of God necessary (why are we heading this way)?

- brokenness of unresolved wrong
- captivity of sin and unbelief
- separation of judgement

### 3. How will the mission of God be achieved (how will we get there)?

The Lord's favour (v2)

V3 leads to v4: be bestowed with God's favour (v3); an agent of God's favour in world (v4) be clothed with garments of salvation

God's mission is to prepare a people to be with him in his new creation forever.

### So what?

Get into the programme

Get with the programme.

---

## Questions for discussion this week in Life Groups

Brainstorm the mission of God under the headings:

1. Creation (what is God's mission purpose in creating us?)
2. Fall (when people reject God, how does his mission purpose mean he reacts?)
3. Redemption (the story of the Bible - choose some examples of God's mission purpose)
4. New creation (what does the final destination of everlasting life on a new earth teach us about God's mission purposes?)

Review Isaiah 61. For each aspect of the mission of God mentioned, ask:

- What does this look like now?
- In what sense is this fulfilled by Jesus (see Luke 4:14-21)?
- What are the now and not yet dimensions?
- How will this be achieved and what is our role? What is our response?

Discuss how you as a group and JC members will get with our vision for 2010.

New initiatives:

- reaching more people groups (ie elderly, youth and intl students)
- proclaiming more of the Lord's favour (ie focus of every Sunday and the new iGod evenings)
- praying more when we're together (ie 10.15 Sundays)