

HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

ADVENT 1 - HOPE

Warm up question:

- Have you ever been rescued or have you ever witnessed someone else being rescued? How did you feel while it was happening? How did you feel when it was over?

Read Isaiah 64:1-12

1. What might Isaiah be feeling at the start of verse 1 that would make him say this? If Isaiah asks God to 'rend' the heavens, do you think he is feeling close to God or far away?
2. In verses 1-2, why does Isaiah say that he wants God to rend (break open) the heavens?
3. In verses 3-4, what might Isaiah be remembering?
4. In verses 5-7, Isaiah asks "can we be saved?" Why is he asking this question? What is he aware of?
5. What do these verses have to say about righteousness/cleanliness and unrighteousness/uncleanliness?
6. What is significant about verse 8? What might Isaiah mean by using this illustration?
7. In verse 9, what reason does Isaiah give for God to forgive them? What do you think about this reason?
8. In verses 10-11, what do we find out about Isaiah's current circumstances?
9. Can we relate to Isaiah's circumstances in what we see around us today?
10. Why do you think Isaiah asks the questions in verse 12?
11. What is your overall perspective on Isaiah's relationship with God from this chapter?

Read Psalm 80:1-19

12. How does Psalm 80 respond to what you have just read in Isaiah 64?
13. What can we say about God as Saviour from Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80?
14. Is there any hope to be found for us in Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80?

Rubber hits the road:

- What is your response to the question, "How can we be saved?"
- How will the hope that you find in your Saviour Jesus change the way you live your life this week?

PRAYER

Gracious God, how can we be saved apart from your amazing grace? You sent your Son Jesus to save us, and for that we are forever thankful. We pray this week, that you would humble our hearts so that we can see our true need for you. We ask that you would fill our hearts with hope as we think about the love that you have showered upon us. You are our Saviour and we find our rest in you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

