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The Prophet Isaiah (First Isaiah: Chapters 1–39)

Assign one person in your group to answer question 1, using the student book and the introduction to the Book of Isaiah found in the Bible. Then assign one or two people in your group to work on each of the other questions (numbers 2 through 7), using the listed biblical passages. You will have the opportunity to meet with your teacher during this process to check the accuracy of your understanding and work.

1. When and where (i.e., in what historical context) does Isaiah prophesy? What, if any, biographical details do we know about him?

2. Call: How is Isaiah called to be a prophet? (See 6:1–8.)

3. Message: What themes lie at the heart of Isaiah’s prophetic message? (See 7:10–14, 9:1–8, and 11:1–9.)

4. Delivery of the message: Through what means is Isaiah’s message delivered to the people? For example, it may be delivered through symbolic language, symbolic acts, oracles, or vision reports. You may list more than one means. (See 2:1–5 and 20:1–6.)

5. Intermediary: How do we see Isaiah functioning as an intermediary, that is, bringing God’s Word to the people, as well as bringing the people’s needs, concerns, and perspective to God? (See 1:2–20 and   
38:1–8,21.)

6. Hope: How does Isaiah offer the Israelites hope or remind them of God’s love during times of suffering and sinfulness? (See 7:10–14 and 9:1–6.)

7. Reaction: How do you think the people would have reacted to hearing what Isaiah had to say about them in his prophecies? (See 1:21–25 and 3:16–26.)