



**Today at Magdalen Road we started a new advent series examining Isaiah's prophecies of hope**

We noted that in a hard year, it's easy to put too much of our hope in good, but not ultimate things. Perhaps we're hoping for a vaccine or a small Christmas gathering and have taken our eyes (or our hearts) off the big hopes that God has promised us in his word.

In chapter 2v1-5 of Isaiah, in contrast to their injustice and lack of righteousness in chapter 1, we saw the beautiful promise of a city on a Mountain in the future. Here, all the nations stream to it and gather to hear the word of God, before going again in peace. Reconciliation with God leads to reconciliation with each other. War is forgotten as weapons are transformed into Edenic farming tools.

It's primarily a picture of what's to come, however we noted that we saw it partially fulfilled in Christ at the incarnation, but also enjoy some fulfilment now in the church. We are a community (a city on a hill!) who gathers to hear the words of God, are reconciled to him and so reconciled to one another - a glimpse of the future reality of the world. Let's remember this promise and hope in the midst of a hard year.

Here are a few questions for your group (fewer than usual due to zoom), as always feel free to tweak as appropriate.

1. What story or hope has kept you going this year? How much have our hopes been shaped by the bible?
2. What do we see happening in the passage? How does God's word change things?
3. What is the response to be of the people of God?
4. How can this bigger hope increasingly shape our daily lives?