

## Week 6// Exile and Hope

### *The Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi)*

#### **Intro//**

So far, our sessions have covered from Genesis through to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, giving us a glimpse of both the big picture of creation and the more detailed story of a people known as the nation of Israel. In part 6, our attention turns to the writing of the prophets, 17 books which run in parallel to the story so far. Through their work and words, the prophets provide a commentary and critique on all that has gone on in previous sections, whilst pointing forward to the hope that can be found in the chapters that are to come.

For the sixth video in full, [please click here.](#)

#### **Discussion Questions//**

1. What or whom do you picture when you think of a prophet? Can you name any contemporary examples of people you'd describe as being 'prophetic'?
2. The Old Testament prophets are consistent in calling people to faithfulness, in a way that always holds together *judgment* and *hope*. Can you recall any times in your story when:
  - a. You've heard God speak a word of challenge when times were good?
  - b. You've heard God speak a word of hope during a difficult or challenging period?
3. James suggests that the biblical prophets speak God's truths into **specific situations** in order to shape, rather than simply describe **the future**.
  - a. To what extent might this change how you think of prophets/prophecy?
  - b. Are there any words/pictures or passages of scripture that have particularly formed you and how you've faced the future?
4. Take the opportunity to pray with one another and ask God:
  - a. What does he have to say to your St Nic's Community during this specific season?
  - b. What kind of response might be required of you?

## Reading Plan//

1	Isaiah 40	Comfort
2	Isaiah 51-53	Suffering Servant
3	Jeremiah 1.1-3.5	The Prophet's Call
4	Ezekiel 37.1-14	Valley of Dry Bones
5	Daniel 6	Daniel & The Lions
6	Hosea 1-2	A Wife of Whoredom
7	Malachi 1-4	Day of Judgement