# Advent 2017 Expectation: Isaiah 42:1-9

# Expectations

## Expectations can fill us with hope

## Expectations can make us terrible people

## Managing expectations is a large part of life

# Who is The Servant of the Lord?

## Isaiah (20:3); Eliakim (22:20); Job; David; Every Jew

### They all fell short

## Isaiah is inspired to speak of the true servant, one who will do it right

# God speaks to the world

## Here is my servant

### Favoured, chosen & Spirit filled

### Dispensing real justice in the quiet of living

### Binding up the damaged, encouraging your light to shine

## This is not a servant of a wrathful God, but of a gracious, caring one

# God speaks to His servant

## I have called you in righteousness

## I’ve called you, held your hand and have plans for you

### YOU will be the covenant

### YOU will be a light for the gentiles

## The plans God had for the Servant included his abuse and his exaltation

# God speaks to all creation

## God is a God of consistency

### He has always been at the centre of creation, glory and history

### He has always dealt with people according to His grace rather than what they have deserved

### He is reliable in bringing justice and healing and restoration into a broken rebellious world

## God is a God of change

### God has plans and if we want to be a part of them then we have to accept change

### In this passage He is managing the expectations of people

# Your expectations of God

## You expect God to do something…

### He has and He is and He will!

# God’s expectations of you

## A response of love, acceptance, obedience and joy

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Expectations

## What do you expect Christmas will be like this year?

## What are people expecting from you?

## Why are so many people disappointed at Christmas?

### How could we help manage their expectations?

## What expectations have you had that never materialised?

### How did you manage the disappointment?

## Can reality be better than expectations?

### Give examples

## If managing other people’s expectations causes conflict, what does NOT managing them do?

### How far do you agree that people with expectations need to be managed if they are not to become tyrants

# God’s servant

## What are the expectations God has of one of His servants?

## How far do you agree that the older a Christian gets the more s/he relies on the grace of God?

### Explain your reasoning

## Does relying on Jesus’ forgiveness reduce our call to be a servant of God

### Explain your answer

## How far is it true that being a servant of God brings joy?

### In what ways does it bring joy?

### What does the servant get out of the arrangement?

### Does this work in relationships?

#### If so, explain how. If not, why not?

## If you are a servant of God what should you expect God to do for you to enable you to serve?