

Discussion Questions for March 15-21, 2026

1. Sometimes people think the grass is greener on the other side. What types of bad choices do people make when they have this mentality, and why do those choices turn out to be bad?
2. In 2 Kings 15:37–16:6 and Isaiah 7:1–2, we learn about the Syro-Ephraimite alliance. This is when the kingdom of Aram (Syria) teamed up with the kingdom of Israel (Ephraim) to fight against common enemies such as Assyria and Jerusalem. In verses 1–11, God addresses a burden against Damascus, Aram’s capital, yet spends most of the passage speaking about Israel. What point might God have been making by calling it the burden against Damascus?
3. According to verses 1–3, what common fate will both parties of the Syro-Ephraimite alliance face?
4. In verses 4–6, God uses different livestock and agricultural metaphors to explain what is going to happen to Israel. What are the metaphors, and what do they teach us about what is about to happen to Israel?
5. What shift in religious devotion takes place in verses 7-8?
6. How did Israel ever get to the place where they needed such a huge shift? Let’s trace the steps. To do that, we need to go back to Deuteronomy. In Deuteronomy 32:1–15, we are told what kind of Rock the Lord is for His people. What kind of Rock is He, and what event in their national history proved that about Him?
7. Isaiah 17:10 says that Israel had forgotten that the Lord was their Rock. What do you think caused them to forget this, especially with Assyria breathing down their necks?
8. When Assyria was threatening them, what did Israel turn to instead, according to verse 10, and what did they expect to gain from what they were turning to?
9. What was the eventual outcome of where they turned, according to verse 11?
10. In our day-to-day lives, what things are we tempted to turn to when we forget God?
11. What are some of the consequences we might face if we turn to these seemingly “pleasant plants”?
12. What will you do this week to guard against forgetting the Lord as our Rock and to remember what kind of Rock He is for us?