

Discussion Questions for April 12-April 18, 2026

1. Think back to your childhood or teenage years – what is a moment when you said or did something a little embarrassing and you just wanted to disappear or hide?
2. During the Assyrian Expansion, everyone was looking for a place to hide. This was the news story. It was the story when Assyria destroyed the Syro-Ephramite alliance in Ahaz's day (722 BC). It was the story when Ashdod fell in Hezekiah's day (712 BC). It was the story when Egypt/Cush fell and Jerusalem was surrounded with Hezekiah inside the city (701 BC). Our text today begins with the fall of Ashdod, the Philistine city on the coast near Jerusalem.

Read verse 1. If they had news back then like we have it today, what would the coverage of the fall of Ashdod look like?

3. Before we move forward, let's remember who Isaiah is. Isaiah is a prophet to the kings of Judah with access to the palace. He goes directly up to the kings of his day and addresses them (Isaiah 7:3, 38:1-5). By the time of Ashdod's fall, he had served under Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and now Hezekiah. With that in mind, read verse 2. What is Isaiah commanded to do in response to Ashdod's fall? How might this interrupt the news cycle?
4. Read verses 3-6. These verses tie Isaiah's sign to the people's last vestiges of hope after Ashdod's fall. Where were the people turning for hope? What event did Isaiah's actions predict?
5. How long does Isaiah walk around like this before his actions are explained? Why might the Lord have waited that long before giving the explanation?
6. According to verse 6, what were the people beginning to realize about alliances? How do you think this exposure made them feel?
7. The Lord, in the days of Ahaz, already said that Assyria would be His razor (7:20), His river (8:7-8), and His rod (10:5-12) against Judah and Jerusalem. The Lord also said He would limit the Assyrian advance to just where He wanted it as well and then He would break them (10:28-34). If Assyria is the discipline of the Lord for Judah, why does trying to hide from it only hurt them in the end?
8. People today are not much different from the people of Judah. We might want to escape from what God is bringing about for our good. Read Hebrews 4:12-13 and think about what we are told about escaping God. Why should we be honest with God and not seek to hide when we read His word?
9. Read Galatians 2:20. Instead of hiding from God's judgment, what does Paul say has happened to himself? How does it work that this is not an escape at all, yet it brings life?
10. Read Isaiah 61:10. This describes the other side of this for Jerusalem. How is this similar to the experience of believers who have repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ? How can we respond like future Jerusalem does this week on a daily basis?