



30<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**David Ratten**

**Reclaiming the true meaning of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:1-11

Share with others in the Group how you're feeling about the coming Christmas time.

Read Isaiah 61:1-11

What do you think was the background mood of the Jewish people prior to Isaiah's prophecy? (Ref Isa 48: 1, 8-10 for example)

How would you describe the 'mood' of the Isaiah 61 prophecy?

How does this impact on you as you enter the Advent period and how do you see Jesus as the fulfillment of this prophecy? (Ref Luke 4:16-21, 31, 40)

We are challenged to personalise Isa 61:10a; can we say, 'I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God'? How might others see this expressed in us?

As Christians we are challenged to be Christ's hands, feet and mouth piece amongst the poor in spirit, the broken hearted and those whose souls are in bondage – He depends on us! In the coming weeks (and year), how might we be open to God using us in such a way? How does this challenge you personally?

IF YOU HAVE TIME:

The message of Christmas is one of transformation and hope. You may wish to share with the Group how your life has been transformed by God.