

## Vision Talk 2010

**Ice Breaker:** Describe a time when you thought you knew where you were going – but then later discovered that you were actually lost. If you're married, describe a time when your spouse thought he (or she) knew where he (or she) was going – but was actually lost.

**BIG IDEA:** The path to living in the reality of God's transforming presence is not about doing more "religious exercises" (Isaiah 58:1-5). The path to living in the reality of God's transforming presence will be laid out for us as we live out Isaiah 58:6ff – and focus more of our time, talent, and treasure on serving the poor and marginalized of our world.

### Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Isaiah 58:1-5. What is it that the people of Israel are frustrated about? Why aren't they experiencing the fullness of God's presence in their lives?
- 2) Read Isaiah 58:6-12. What kind of "fast" does God prescribe for Israel's transformation?
- 3) The second half of Isaiah 58 is laced with "If/Then" statements. Make a list of all the things God promises to be and do for His people – if they will enter into His prescribed "fast."
- 4) Read Matthew 25:31-46. How does God's concern for the poor in Isaiah 58 (in the OT) compare with Jesus' concern for the poor (in the NT)? What does this say about God? How should this inform our lives – both individually and as a church family?
- 5) Dream together about what might happen in our lives (and in our church) if we stepped onto this Isaiah 58 path? What impact would it have on our church? On our community? On our world?
- 6) Spend some time sharing and praying with each other – that God would show you (and your life group) some specific ways to enter into this prescribed "fast" of Isaiah 58.