

**Discussion questions for Songs of Hope and Love Week 1:
The Song of the Vineyard**

Discussion Questions:

1. What impacted you most during our worship service together this past Sunday? How would you describe what you experienced? In what ways did you experience encouragement and in what ways discomfort?
2. Songs have incredible power to move us. Describe some of the songs (lyrical or instrumental) that have made an impact on you and why?
3. Read the Song of the Vineyard in Isaiah 5:1-7 and discuss the following:
 - What emotions and feelings are expressed in the song and what is their intent?
 - What is your own emotional response to the song?
 - In verses 1 and 2 the owner of the vineyard is in the third person, whereas in verses 3 – 6 the owner is speaking in the first person. Why do you think the writer makes this change and what is its impact?
 - What is the emotional impact of the switch back to the third person in verse 7?
 - In the original Hebrew language in verse 7, the word for “justice” sounds very similar to the word for “bloodshed” and the word for “righteousness” sounds very similar to the word for “cries of distress”. Why do you think the writer employs this technique?
4. Read Isaiah 5:8. What is the injustice described here and how does it relate to the song both literally and metaphorically? In what ways is the Song of the Vineyard specifically about land and the protection of the land? In what ways could the Song of the Vineyard be a metaphor for the intentional cultivation of peace and justice in societies?
5. Read Matthew 7:15-20. What allusions to the Song of the Vineyard do you see here? How is Jesus applying the song’s themes to our own lives?
6. Read John 15:1-17. What allusions to the Song of the Vineyard do you see here? What is Jesus saying about the way to bear good fruit in our lives? How might this apply to you?
7. Read Isaiah 27:2-6. How does this compare to the Song of the Vineyard? What is the request of the vineyard owner and how does that differ from the request in the Song of the Vineyard? How do you want to respond to this?

Prayer Practice for the week

Take some time this week to listen several times to a song or piece of music that has previously made a positive impact on you and drawn you closer to God. This could be a secular or religious piece. Reflect on what that impact was back then. What is the significance of that impact now? Have you continued to be drawn closer to God since then or drifted further away? What new hope can this old song give you now?