

# Fort Worth for Good Recap

*Scripture and Background Information for February 12-18.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Last year at Doxology, we felt the need to continue to reach out and serve our city in multiple unique ways. This desire led to the creation of the Fort Worth for Good campaign that many of us have invested our time and money in to accomplish. This year, through your generosity, we can celebrate the fact that we have launched the Alliance congregation, hired a reading specialist for South Hills Elementary, and have seen many new volunteers begin to serve in varying capacities. This week, we want to take the time to remember what God has done in and through Doxology and think about what it could look like to continue serving our city in some incredible ways.

## **Background for Isaiah 26:1-6:**

Isaiah is written over many years that encompass the reigns of multiple Kings in Judah. During much of this time, the world is in turmoil. There are many wars that are going on, the economy fluctuates greatly, and two different political powers dominate the known world whose influence causes destruction and for many people to be exiled from their homelands. To add to this, the people of Judah are inconsistent in their obedience to the Lord. Depending on their leadership, they either worship the Lord well or turn completely from Him.

In our passage for today, two cities are contrasted. One city, called the strong city, is built by God. It is described as having His protection and being filled with His peace. The people that live in this city are faithful and humble as they trust in the Lord. But the other city, the lofty one, is said to be destroyed by God. His wrath and judgement are against this city and its people continually exalt themselves and their purposes above God's will. The question that this raises for us today is the same as it was for Isaiah's audience. Which city do you want to be a part of? We are invited by God to live now as if we are in the strong city that He has built and help others become citizens of that city, too. Will you join us as we respond to God's challenge and begin to center our lives on His values and desires to care for our city and all who live in it?

## Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. God interacts with the strong city and the lofty city in very different ways. What does this say about what the Lord values in His people?
2. At the moment, do you think your life more closely reflects the values of the strong city or the lofty city? Why?
3. After this week's sermon and discussion, do you feel as if the Lord is leading you to participate in the Fort Worth for Good campaign in a new way? If so, in what way? How do you plan on pursuing that?