

Life Group Discussion Guide

Isaiah: Yahweh Alone Is God

Week 5: Remember. Return. Redeemed • Isaiah 43:22-44:23

Read Isaiah 43:22-44:23 together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Jon's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

Empty Worship and Forgiveness

In **Isaiah 43:22-28**, God addresses the Israelites' empty worship practices, emphasizing that they have not called upon him or honored him with their sacrifices. Despite their failures, God declares his intention to forgive their sins for his own sake, demonstrating his grace and mercy.

- How does **Isaiah 43:22-24** describe the nature of Israel's worship? What elements are missing in their approach to God?
- Reflect on times when your worship might have felt empty, disconnected, or routine. What factors contributed to this? What did God teach you through that experience?
- God declares in **Isaiah 43:25** that he will blot out transgressions for his own sake. How does this promise of forgiveness impact your understanding of God's character?

Dry Worship and the Spirit

In **Isaiah 44:1-5**, God promises to pour out his Spirit on the descendants of Jacob, bringing life and renewal to dry and barren places. This passage emphasizes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in revitalizing worship and devotion to God.

- **Isaiah 44:3** speaks of God pouring out his Spirit like water on dry ground. In what ways does the promise of the Holy Spirit's outpouring enhance your understanding of the Spirit's role in the life of a believer?
- Pastor Jon highlighted that dry worship can be revived through the Spirit. How have you witnessed this revival in your own life? Or as he put it, *is the new life of God springing up in you, welling up into eternal life? Or are you dwelling on the former things?*
- Reflect on **Isaiah 44:4-5**. How does the imagery of growth and flourishing inspire you in your walk with the Lord?

False Worship and Redemption

Isaiah 44:6-20 contrasts the futility of idol worship with the sovereignty and redemptive power of God. The passage challenges the people to recognize the absurdity of worshipping idols and to return to the one true God who redeems them.

- **Isaiah 44:9-11** describes the futility of idol worship. Why do you think people are drawn to false gods or idols in their lives? What did Pastor Jon say tempts us to worship idols?
- How can we identify idols in our own lives, and what steps can we take to remove them?
- Share a testimony of a time when you or someone you know experienced redemption from God after turning away from an idol or false belief.

Remember. Return. Redeemed!

In **Isaiah 44:21-23**, God calls Israel to remember their identity and return to him because he has redeemed them. Pastor Jon pointed out that:

God finds us in our empty worship, dry worship, and false worship, and—because of who he is—he takes away our sin, pours his Spirit on us, and redeems our lives, makes them new. This is the gospel that Isaiah announces to us and Jesus brings to fulfillment by sacrificing his life for us. The gospel is not us offering sacrifices to God. The gospel is God offering the sacrifice of his son for us. The gospel is not us doing for God, but God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

- Reflect on **Isaiah 44:22**, where God promises to blot out sins like a thick cloud. What emotions and thoughts arise when you consider the completeness of God's forgiveness? How does this theme resonate with the New Testament portrayal of Christ's redemptive work?
- How can we cultivate a habit of remembrance and gratitude in our daily lives?
- How does knowing that you are redeemed by God shape your perspective on the challenges and struggles you face?