

Life Group Discussion Guide

Isaiah: Yahweh Alone Is God
Week 7: False vs. True Religion • Isaiah 46

Read Isaiah 46 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?

Works vs. Grace

In **Isaiah 46:1-7** God exposes the futility of Babylonian idols, Bel and Nebo, which must be carried and are a burden. In contrast, God declares his ability to carry and sustain his people from birth to old age. Pastor Jon highlighted how false religion—relying on human effort—is burdensome, whereas true religion, based on God's grace, offers freedom and rest.

- **Isaiah 46:1-2** - How do these verses illustrate the difference between the burdens of false religion and the freedom in true religion?
- **Isaiah 46:3-4** - How does the imagery of God carrying his people from birth to old age reflect God's ongoing care and involvement in his creation?
- **Isaiah 46:5-7** - Pastor Jon spoke of the false sense of security and significance that we seek in idols of various kinds. Why is it easier for us to work for our security and significance than to rely on God's grace?
- Reflect on a time when you relied on something or someone other than God for security or significance. What was the outcome? What did God teach you through that experience?

Unbelief vs. Belief

Isaiah 46:8-11 God calls His people to remember His unique power and sovereignty, challenging them to trust in him alone rather than turning to idols. Pastor Jon taught that creating and trusting in idols stems from a lack of belief in God's true nature and promises. Belief in God involves recognizing his unmatched authority and relying on his faithfulness.

- Pastor Jon said, "The reason we make up gods... is that we don't truly believe that the one true God is who he says he is." How does this statement challenge your current beliefs about God?
- Reflect on **Isaiah 46:10**, where God declares his sovereign will. How does acknowledging God's uniqueness and sovereignty help combat unbelief?
- Read **Ephesians 2:1-10**. Discuss the importance of rejecting works-based, false religion in favor of embracing God's gift of grace. How does this impact your daily life and walk with the Lord?

Unrighteousness vs. Salvation

Isaiah 46:12-13 contrasts human unrighteousness with God's promise of salvation. **The big idea: true religion is salvation by faith in Jesus alone.** Pastor Jon said:

"True religion is belief, belief that God is who he says he is. Belief that God's ways are higher than our ways. Belief that God willingly gave his son to remake the world, out of his committed love for the world. Belief that God can and will triumph over the powers of death and the power of sin. True religion is the gospel of salvation."

- Discuss how acknowledging our unrighteousness is essential for understanding and accepting God's salvation. How has this played out in your walk?
- Discuss how past experiences with God can strengthen your faith in his promises for the future. Share a testimony of God's faithfulness in your life.
- Take a few moments to reflect on any idols, burdens, or unbelief you've been carrying. Confess these to God and one another. Conclude by praying together for his help in learning to rely on his grace.

