

Life Group Discussion Guide

Isaiah: Yahweh Alone Is God

Week 9: When Your Enemy is Yourself • Isaiah 48

Read Isaiah 48 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?

God's Glory Overcomes Rebellion

God addresses Israel's obstinacy and idolatry, highlighting that despite their rebellion, his actions are for his own glory, showcasing his power and faithfulness.

- How does God describe the Israelites' behavior in **verses 1-5**? What does this reveal about their relationship with him?
- In his message, Pastor Jon said, "Israel's problem is not Babylon." What does this statement mean in the context of their rebellion?
- Why does God choose to delay his wrath according to **verses 9-11**? How does this reflect his character?
- Pastor Jon mentioned that God's patience is for his own glory. How does this understanding affect our view of God's discipline in our lives?

God's Purpose Shapes History

God reaffirms his sovereignty as the Creator and Shaper of history, emphasizing his power over the empires of the earth and his commitment to deliver his people.

- How does **Isaiah 48:12-16** highlight God's sovereignty over history? What implications does this have for our understanding of world events?
- In **verse 14**, God asks which of the idols has foretold these things. How does this challenge the Israelites' idolatry?
- Are there any voices, idols, or circumstances in your life that are challenging your trust in God? Share a passage or verse that encourages us to trust in the Lord in everything.
- Pastor Jon said, "It's easier for us to believe that God is the Creator than to believe that he's the Shaper of history. Because we constantly fret about world affairs as if wars and rumors of wars and violence and abuses of power were a new thing." How does seeing God as the Shaper of history influence your response to global or personal crises?

God's Voice Creates the Future

God, as the Redeemer, teaches and directs his people for their well-being.

- According to **Isaiah 48:17-19**, what benefits come from listening to God's voice? How have you experienced these in your own life?
- Pastor Jon noted that God knows what would have been if Israel had listened to him. Yet, the Lord hasn't forgotten them; he is patient and promises their redemption. How has God's patience impacted your walk?
- How can we better discern God's voice in our daily lives?

The Redeemed Listen to the Lord

A call to leave Babylon and proclaim God's redemption, with a promise of peace and well-being for those who listen and follow God's guidance.

- What does **Isaiah 48:20-22** tell us about the actions and attitudes of the redeemed? How can we emulate this in our own lives?
- How can you share the message of redemption with those around you?
- Reflect on the promise of peace for those who listen to God. How does this promise encourage you in your current circumstances?

Seed Moment

- What is God teaching me through this series, chapter, or our discussion?
- Pray for one another, asking God to strengthen your faith and help you trust in his sovereign plan. Specifically, pray for clarity in hearing his voice and the courage to follow his guidance.

