

Servant Songs Discussion Questions

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Isaiah 6

- Does Isaiah's vision of the Lord on His throne surprise you? How do you visualize the Lord?
- Compare and contrast Isaiah's vision of the Lord in this chapter with our modern conception of "God is love."
- If you were a Jew living in Isaiah's time and heard this vision, would it encourage you or discourage you?
- What does the holiness of God mean to you?

Isaiah 40:1-31

- Do you ever feel like there is something about you God cannot forgive? What helps you in those times of doubt?
- Do you find these words comforting? Why or why not?
- Do you picture the Lord coming more like a warrior or a shepherd? Why? Have you always seen Him that way?
- How would you answer the question in 40:18? Was this always your answer?
- How would you answer the question in 40:27?
- Do you think 40:28-31 promise too much? Why or why not?
- How do you think this passage speaks to a believer who has grown weary of waiting for God to fulfill his promises?
- How would you compare your idols the Lord described in chapter 40?

Isaiah 42:1-9

- Traditionally, Jews believe the servant is the nation of Israel. Assuming you believe the Servant to be the Messiah, how do you know?
- Are you looking for "justice" from the Messiah? Why or why not? If so, what kind of justice are you hoping for?
- Isaiah's response to the announcement of the Servant was a song of praise (42:10-12). What is your response?
- When you read the gospels, how/where do you see Jesus fulfilling these words of Isaiah?

Isaiah 49:1-13

- Does it surprise you that the Servant would become discouraged? Why?
- Do you find the Lord's response to the Servant's discouragement satisfying? Why?
- Isaiah refers to God as "the Holy one of Israel" 28 times in the book. What does that name tell you about God? Why do you think Isaiah would use it so often?
- Do you find these words comforting?

Isaiah 50:4-11

- Have you ever asked the Lord, "Why did I have to suffer through this?" How did He answer?
- Notice how the Servant was prepared for his task. How has God prepared you for your tasks? With 20/20 hindsight, were events in your life preparing you but you didn't recognize them as preparation until later?
- Notice how the Lord is with the Servant in adversity. How have you seen God work in adversity?
- Have you ever "set your face like flint" to face a task or get through adversity? What encouraged you in that time? What made it harder?

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

- Have you ever struggled with believing God loved you? Why or why not?
- Before you were a believer, is this suffering servant the kind of savior you expected to find? Why or why not?
- Have you struggled with believing God will forgive ALL your sins? Why or why not?
- How can we encourage others to believe in the forgiveness of God? As individuals? As a church? As a family?
- Are you convinced you that the suffering of this world is worth it? Why?
- When you read the gospels, how/where do you see Jesus fulfilling these words of Isaiah?
- In 1 Peter 2:20-25, Peter calls us to follow Christ's example of humility in suffering. How can we practically follow Christ's example? How can we encourage and help each other do this? How do we hinder each other?
- Does this passage add to or change your understanding of who Jesus is and what he did for you? Why or why not?

Isaiah 54:1-17

- What do the promises of the New Covenant mean to you? Do you take them seriously? Why?
- Do you fear God's judgment? As a believer should you? Why or why not?
- Looking back at your spiritual life, do you see times of "exile" when God was disciplining you? What did you learn? Do you see times of "restoration"? What did you learn?
- Compare and contrast your understanding of the New and Old Covenants.

Isaiah 55:1-13

- Have you accepted the Lord's invitation to the feast? Why not?
- Do the promises of the New Covenant brought by the Servant seem too good to be true to you? Why or why not?
- How do you explain the difference between apologies and repentance? How can we teach and model repentance in our daily lives?
- Do you believe God's word will not return empty? Have you seen examples in your spiritual life so far?