

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 14, 2024

Passage: Isaiah 58:1–14

Memory Passage: Isaiah 58:13–14

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 58:1–14.** In verse 1, who speaks, who is told to speak, and to whom are they to speak?
- (b) What is the messenger to declare to the hearers (v. 1c, d)?
- (c) In what activities are the people engaged (v. 2a–b, e–f)? What fault does Yahweh find with his people (v. 2c–d)?
- (d) What complaints do the people have against their God? Are these complaints valid? Why or why not?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 58:1–14.** What reasons does Yahweh give for not responding to his people's fast (vs. 3c–4)?
- (b) What are the correct answers to the three questions asked in v. 5? Why are their acts of worship unacceptable?
- (c) What actions in your life cause your externally correct worship to be unacceptable to God?
- (d) What actions in a church's life cause her externally correct worship to be unacceptable to God?
- (e) What actions in a nation's life cause her externally correct homage to God to be unacceptable?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 58:1–14.** Explain each aspect of the fast Yahweh says he chooses (vs. 6–7). Don't merely restate the text; explain what each aspect means and what actions Yahweh's people will take that will make their fast acceptable.
- (b) What promises will come to those who obey (vs. 8–9b, "then . . . then")? Explain each promise.
- (c) What other outward signs will be rewarded (vs. 9c–10b, "if . . . if")?
- (d) What blessings come to those who obey these "if" statements (vs. 10c–12, "then . . . and . . . and, etc.")? Again, explain what each blessing means. In other words, don't merely write down "your ancient ruins will be rebuilt" (v. 12a), but rather explain what this means for Yahweh's people in Isaiah's day and for you.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 58:1–14.** Verses 13–14 present more “if . . . then” statements. Explain what the people must do and what that looks like for God’s people in Isaiah’s original audience and for you.

(b) What rewards come to those who obey, and what do these blessings look like for Isaiah’s original audience and for you?

(c) Read Isaiah 1:10–20. Compare and contrast these two passages regarding setting, content (sins rebuked, repentance commanded, blessings promised, etc.), and tone/mood.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 58:1–14.** Look back to the answers you gave on Day 2. Now that you’ve studied the chapter, what was wrong with the external worship practices of God’s people? Why were these good things (fasting, Sabbath keeping) unacceptable to Yahweh, and what is the relationship between internal motivations and external worship?

(b) Review the answers you gave to (c), (d), and (e) on Day 2 and add to them by answering two more questions: (1) What specific sins must be repented of for worship (or homage, in the case of a nation) to be acceptable to God? (2) What blessings should each (you, a church, a nation) expect if this repentance is true?

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Repent!