

Women's Bible Study

Fall 2020: Isaiah

Suggested Abbreviated Reading Plan for Tuesday, November 10th

The full reading assignment for this week is Isaiah 56-59 and Week 10 in the workbook.

Following is a suggested reading plan for those who would like a briefer, more focused reading assignment.

1. Read the two short paragraphs on p. 75 in the workbook ("The Place of the Passage" and "The Big Picture").
2. Skip to p. 79, and read through the "Gospel Glimpses," "Whole Bible Connections," and "Theological Soundings" sections to get a sense for the major themes of these chapters.
3. Read **Isaiah 56:1-8**, and answer the first question on p. 76 ("Although Isaiah 40–55 emphasized..."), concentrating on the first part of the question (the material from Isaiah, more than the cross-referenced material from John).
4. Read **Isaiah 57:14-21**. To consider: "God says He dwells in a high and holy place and *also* with the contrite (penitent, crushed) and lowly (see 57:15b). The high and holy place is reasonable for the High and Lofty One (see 57:15a). However, why does God dwell with the lowly and contrite? What does this fact show about His character? What does it mean to be contrite and humble?" (from *NavPress Isaiah LifeChange Study*)
5. Read **Isaiah 58:1-5**, and answer the last question on p. 76 ("What, according to Isaiah 58:1–5...").
6. Read **Isaiah 58:6-14**, and answer the first question on p. 77 ("What does true godliness ...").
7. Read **Isaiah 59**. To consider: "Why does sin hinder God from intervening (see 59:1-2)? What kinds of sins are most prominent in 59:3-15? What was God's solution to Israel's failure (see 59:15-20)?" (from *NavPress Isaiah LifeChange Study*)
8. **Optional:** After you've completed items 1-7, if you'd like, you can go back and read the full section of Isaiah (chapters 56-59) and answer the remaining workbook questions.
9. **Optional:** Spend some time praying with Isaiah 56-58:
 - Isaiah 56:7: "These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."
 - *Ask the Lord to welcome you to His house of prayer, to accept your offerings in this time of prayer, and to give you joy in it.*

- Isaiah 57:15: “For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”
 - *Praise God for His majesty, His holiness, His enduring power and love.*
 - *Thank God for His nearness to the contrite, the lowly in spirit, the brokenhearted. Lift up to the Lord anyone you know—including yourself—whose spirits need to be revived.*
- Isaiah 57:19b: “‘Peace, peace, to those far and near,’ says the Lord.”
 - *At this moment, do you feel far from the Lord, or near to Him? Rest in the knowledge that He is offering peace to those far and near. Pray for all who are far from God today.*
- Isaiah 58:6-7: “‘Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?’”
 - *Examine your heart before the Lord. Who in your life is living under a burden? Who in your life is financially, physically, or emotionally vulnerable? Is there a member of your family you have turned away from? Open your heart before the Lord and ask Him to show what He would have you do for this person.*
- Isaiah 58:11: “The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”
 - *Conclude your time of prayer by simply resting in this promise.*