

## Women's Bible Study

### Fall 2020: Isaiah

#### Suggested Abbreviated Reading Plan for Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

The full reading assignment for this week is Isaiah 49-55 and Week 9 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. 67 in the workbook ("The Place of the Passage" and "The Big Picture").
2. Skip to p. 71, 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 49:1-6**. For reflection: The Lord calls His Servant "Israel" in 49:3, yet what is His mission (see 49:5-6)? How do you understand the relationship between the Servant's identity as Israel and mission to Israel? (Adapted from NavPress *Isaiah LifeChange Study*)
4. Read **Isaiah 50:4-9**, and answer the first question on p. 69 ("In the third of four servant passages...").
5. Read **Isaiah 52:13-53:12**, and answer the first question on p. 70 ("The central stanza...").
6. Then answer the next question on p. 70 ("What do we learn...").
7. Read **Isaiah 55:1-11**, and answer the second question on p. 71 ("According to Isaiah 55:1...").
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 49-55) and answer the remaining workbook questions.
9. **Optional:** Spend some time praying with one of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah:
  - Begin by hearing the Lord's invitation to you in Isaiah 55:1-3a: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live."
    - *Ask the Lord to help you listen to Him, to hear whatever He may have to say to you this day.*
  - Prayerfully reread one or more of the Servant Songs (Is. 42:1-4; Is. 49:1-6; Is. 50:4-7; and Is. 52:13-53:12).

- *Take some time to meditate on one verse or brief passage that seems particularly meaningful to you. Why does it seem important? What are its implications for your life and faith journey? Speak to the Lord from your heart about these things.*
- Prayerfully read Matthew 12:15-21: “Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:
  - ‘Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.  
He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.  
A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he has brought justice through to victory.  
In his name the nations will put their hope.’”
  - *Meditate on this passage in light of what we have been reading in Isaiah. Have you experienced Jesus to be the fulfillment of what you read in the Servant Songs? If so, how? Speak openly with the Lord about this.*
- Prayerfully read Isaiah 54:17: “‘No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,’ declares the Lord.”
  - *As Christians, we are also called to be God’s servants. Spend some time reflecting on your identity as a servant of God. Invite the Lord to show you specific ways that the Servant of the Lord revealed in Isaiah can be a model for your own life.*
  - *Close with a word of thanksgiving for whatever the Lord has shown you in this time of prayer.*

*(Adapted from NavPress Isaiah LifeChange Study)*