

## Isaiah 42-43 Discussion Guide

### Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### Read Scripture

Read all of Isaiah chapters 42 & 43 together.

### Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

**HEAR** stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

### Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

### Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

**Open:** What are various "roles" you had in life a few years ago? How do your "roles" change from time to time? What is the difference between someone's "role" versus their "identity" (who they are)?

**Context:** "In chapters 40-55, Isaiah addresses those of this future exiled generation with words of hope. Through Isaiah, God comforts his people with the good news of his return as king to bring physical and spiritual redemption." (ESV Study Bible)

### Study:

"The first of four Servant Songs is found in Isaiah 42:1-9 (also 49:1-13; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12). Isaiah sprinkles references to his "servant" in chapters 41-48, often as a title for his people as a whole (e.g., 41:8-9; 42:19; 43:10; 44:1-2). Here in 42:1-9, the servant is best explained as a true and faithful Israel. It is the nation as it should be, faithful to their calling and mission." (ESV Isaiah Study, Drew Hunter)

- 1) Who is the "Servant" mentioned in 42:1? By what term does God identify the "Servant"?
- 2) What did God mean when He said, "I have put my Spirit upon Him" (see 42:1)?
- 3) When and how does the "Servant" bring righteousness to the Gentiles (see 42:1)?
- 4) What is the character of the "Servant" as it relates in particular to His mission or calling (see 42:2-3)?

- 5) What will the Messiah establish on the earth (see 42:4)? What is it?
- 6) What assurance does Jehovah give His “Servant” that He will give Him a special people from among the Jews and the Gentiles (see 42:5-7)?
- 7) What New Testament text is most reminiscent of Isaiah 42:7)?
- 8) What does Isaiah command to be sung in anticipation of the sending forth of God’s “Servant” (see 42:10-12)? Who should be the ones singing this song? Why?
- 9) Even though God would deliver Judah to Babylon, how would He regard them there (see 43:1)? Why?
- 10) What promise did God make to the concerning this ordeal (see 43:3)? Did He keep this promise? If so, how?
- 11) What would God give for a ransom of Judah from captivity (see 43:3)? Ultimately, when was this ransom paid? How are you certain that it was paid?
- 12) Who would God bring forth from the four corners of the Earth (see 43:5-7)? In what ways would this have encouraged and quieted the souls of this original audience? How might this encourage God’s people today?

**Apply:**

- 13) From Isaiah 42:6-7, what does it mean for God’s people today to be “*a light to the nations*”? In what ways are you “letting your light shine” in daily mundane ways? How are you seeking to represent God’s covenant in your everyday life?
- 14) In Isaiah 43 this chapter tells us specific purposes that God’s people have been created for. How are you fulfilling your purpose to show God’s glory (see 43:7)? In what ways are you serving as His witnesses to others of the good news that God always keeps His promises (see 43:10, 12)?
- 15) What are the obstacles you are facing in fulfilling God’s purpose for your life? How does the Gospel help you both to truly believe in your new identity and empower you to live out this new purpose? How can we help one another live out of our identity more this coming week?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God the He truly is the One who always keeps His promises.
- Take time to thank God that the disposition of His heart is to encourage His people.
- Take time to pray and ask to help you believe that Jesus has fully paid the ransom price for all your sin.
- Ask God to give you an awareness to enjoy the newfound purpose you have for living because of the Gospel.

Note: most questions taken from Jeff Asher’s The Prophet Isaiah Study Guide.