

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: Isaiah 49-; Psalm 5-11

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Personal devotion
3. Community group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal devotion at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: How God is revealing himself?, What God is doing?, Who are we in relation to God?, and What are we to do in light of this truth?

Overview of Isaiah

For a brief, but great overview of the book of Isaiah, please go to <http://www.jubileestl.org/my-jubilee-bible/>

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Personal Devotion

Reading the Scriptures devotionally is such a soul expanding, life enriching way to experience God through His word. There are several challenges that we can face as we read. The biggest one is to approach God and His Word as a critic, or a judge. This approach fills the gaps in our understanding with suspicion rather than trust.

Our goal is not to criticize God and His word, it is to look into the words of life and let them examine us. Our aim is to know God, love Him and respond with obedient faith.

With that in mind we want to approach God and His word with humility, desire and discipline.

Humility

There are four prayers in the Scriptures that can be easily remembered and incredibly helpful when approaching God to hear Him through His word. It's a simple acronym: I.O.U.'S.

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!"—Psalm 119:36 ESB

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law."—
Psalm 119:18 ESB

"Unite my heart to fear your name."—Psalm 86:11 ESB

"Sustain me with a willing spirit."—Psalm 51:12 NASB

Desire and Discipline

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.—1 Peter 2:2-3

Desire (longing) needs to lead to diligence (you have tasted) so that we may be satisfied that God really is good. Following are some questions and a format to help us grow in both desire and discipline.

As you read with humble desire and discipline, let these questions help lay some tracks for the train of your thoughts to run on. Start with who God is and what he's doing, then work through who you are and how you can respond.

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Who is God?

- How is he revealing about himself in the text I'm reading?
- What characteristics do I observe?

What is He doing?

- What are God's actions in the text I am reading?
- How do His actions match his revealed character?

Who am I?

- How do I fit into God's story?
- How do I relate to the people in the text I am reading?
- How do I relate to the circumstances they are in?

What do I do?

- How do I respond to God as He reveals Himself in the text I'm reading?
- How do I respond to what God is doing in the text I'm reading?
- How actions or attitudes do I need to change?

The following grid may help you keep track of your observations and applications.

1. Who is God?	3. Who I am?
2. What is God doing?	4. What do I need to do?

It's often helpful to have a way to record your observations and applications as you read. You can get a simple journal or notebook to write your thoughts down, or use the Bible App notes to keep a record of what you sense God is saying to you.

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CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Who did you BLESS this week?

Read Jeremiah 2:11-13

- What does this passage tell us about God?
 - What seems to be his mood, or his posture?
 - How does God describe himself?
- What does this passage tell you about Israel's attitude about God?
 - What are the two evils that they have committed?
 - How can you relate to these statements?
- God likens himself to a fountain of living water.
 - How have you experienced God's life?
 - How have you turned away from God's life?
- God likens our striving to find fulfillment in other things as a cistern. A cistern is dug out to collect the run off from rain.
 - What are some ways that you have been replacing God with other things?
 - How can you relate to the idea that these things can't hold water?
- How do you sense you need to return to God's life-giving flow?
 - What do you think that will look like?
- What do you sense you need to do to stop digging cisterns?
 - How do think life will be different?

Pray

- Pray for one another to receive the Holy Spirit and live daily in his presence (Ephesians 5:18-21)
- Pray for those who sense that they have not only forsaken God, but have turned to other things for fulfillment. Pray that they will receive grace to say no to this sin.