

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 21, 2024

Passage: Isaiah 59:1–21

Memory Passage: Isaiah 59:20–21

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 59:1–21.** Identify markers in the text that reveal its structure (change in speaker or person [i.e., 1st person plural or singular; 3rd person; etc.], audience, genre, message, tone, etc.). Write one sentence capturing the message of each section.

(b) What does v. 1 tell you about Yahweh?

(c) What does v. 2 tell you about Judah (and all disobedient men and women)?

(d) Explain the contrast presented between vs. 1 and 2 (v. 2 begins with the adversative “but”) and how this contrast functions in chapter 59.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 59:1–21.** We find accusations of iniquity in vs. 3–8 expressed in a series of 12 statements structured in parallelism. For each statement, identify the type of parallelism used and explain what sin is described.

(b) Parallelism reminder: Parallelism is an arrangement of two, three, or four lines (different authors use different terminology, but I’m using the term “lines”), which in turn are arranged in a bicolon (pl. bicola), tricolon (pl. tricola), or quatrain (groupings of 2, 3, or 4 lines) containing one thought in parallel statements. Though there are many types of parallelism, the basic three are: Synthetic, in which the second and following lines expand upon the first in some way (increasing force or intensity, explaining, emphasizing, etc. [the list is endless]). Synonymous, in which the first and second statements express the same truth in different words. Antithetical, in which the second statement expresses a contrast to the first. The primary type of parallelism found in OT poetry is synthetic.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 59:1–21.** Verses 9–15b express the people’s confession of sin. For each bicolon or quatrain, identify the type of parallelism used, explain what sin is confessed, and identify any evidence or consequences of the sins presented.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 59:1–21.** In two bicola, one tricolon, and three quatrains, Isaiah and Yahweh himself explain Yahweh’s response to the sinful condition of his people. Explain what Yahweh intends to do.
- (b) Identify the one factor determining whether one receives judgment or redemption.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 59:1–21.** How does recognizing the genre change in v. 21 help you interpret this verse?
- (b) To which covenant does Yahweh refer in v. 21?
- (c) Using what you have learned in Isaiah, respond to someone claiming this verse teaches us to baptize our infants (which many claim it does).
- (d) Application: (1) What sins should you confess and repent of right now to have your relationship with God restored (see v. 1)? (2) How does v. 21 strengthen your faith, your joy, and your ability to repent from sin? (3) What do you learn about God’s character and work that fuels your worship? (4) How does this chapter equip you to share the gospel with others, whether your child, your friend, or a stranger?

DATE: January 21, 2024**PASSAGE: Isaiah 59:1–21***Sin, Judgment, and Redemption*