

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 25, 2024

Passage: Isaiah 63:7–64:12

Memory Passage: Isaiah 64:8–9

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 63:7–64:12.** This prayer begins with a remembrance (cf. 62:6) in 63:7–14. Explain the flow of the remembrance by observing the way the opening word of each bicolon or tricolon (a group of 2 or 3 lines connected in poetry; identified in the ESV by the indented second and/or third lines) connects that colon with what has preceded it. For example, v. 7a begins “I will recount; v. 7c begins “according to; vs. 7e begins “that,” etc. There are sixteen bi/tricolons in vs. 7–14.
- (b) What are the main ideas in these verses, and where does each one begin (I found three, possibly four)?
- (c) Fill in the meaning of each of these sections: (1) “I will recount . . .”, (2) “But they rebelled . . .”, (3) “Then he remembered . . .”.
- (d) Why is it important to remember the past when we pray, and how does it serve as a foundation for our prayers?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 63:7–64:12.** Summarize in one word what Isaiah prays for in 63:15–64:12: Isaiah prays for \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Identify the main sections of this prayer (63:15–64:12). What did you observe in the text to help you identify these sections (i.e., repeated words or phrases, how the section(s) begin and end, questions asked, shifts in thought, etc.)?
- (c) What does Isaiah ask Yahweh to “Look down from heaven and see” (63:15–19)?
- (d) Why does Isaiah ask God to take notice of their present situation, including their status and their reality?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is 63:7–64:12.** On what basis and for what purpose does Isaiah ask God to “come down” (64:1–4)?
- (b) To whom does God present himself (64:5a, b), and why does God not present himself to these people (64:5c–7)?

(c) Just as Isaiah asked Yahweh to take notice of their current situation (63:15-19), he now acknowledges that he has taken notice of his current situation and confesses accordingly. How does this model help you engage with God in prayer? What does it teach you about your sin and its effect on God's presence?

(d) Why should you confess and repent of sin when you pray, and on what basis must you do so?

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is 63:7–64:12.** What does the adversative “But” that begins 64:8 contrast?

(b) For what does Isaiah ask (64:9a, b), and on what basis does he ask it (64:8, 9c)?

(c) What answer does Isaiah expect to the questions he asks in 64:12?

(d) How do the questions in this section progress this prayer (63:11–12; 15:c, d; 17:1, b; 64:5d; 65:12)?

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is 63:7–64:12.** What do you learn about God in 63:7–64:12? What do you learn about yourself? Why do you need to know and understand these realities when you pray?

(b) How does unrepentant sin affect your prayer life, what actions must you take, and on what basis must you act?

(c) Write down at least five principles for praying that you learn from 63:7–64:12. Spend time in prayer implementing these principles as you commune with God in prayer.

**DATE: February 25, 2024**

**PASSAGE: Isaiah 63:7–64:12**

*O Yahweh, Have Mercy Again*