

Message Series: Servant Songs

Message Title: Song 2 The Discouraged

Key Scripture:

Isaiah 49:1-7, John 15:4-11, Colossians 3:3.

Theme

Isaiah has four songs about the Servant of the Lord, that can get our spirits on song. As we study in depth the first three songs, (the fourth was covered at Easter, Isaiah 52-53), may we learn more how we are called to be the people of God, from everywhere, and serve like Jesus keeping us singing from the same song sheet. The prophetic writings of Isaiah show the Lord will help us despite all we may feel or face.

Message Summary

Song 2, this servant song, describes God's Spirit endowed servant, bringing onto earth what heaven has planned. Isaiah does a lot of prophesying and no one seems to be listening – he gets discouraged, like the rest of us. However, what God has in store is much bigger than he, (and us), can imagine. Isaiah is encouraged in his own ministry to keep going, (also relates to Jesus), TO SHOW that we cannot measure success on what we expect, or see. We must put the results in God's hands. The challenge is what we do with discouragements.

Whole Group Questions

- **Think & Talk: Are you a servant of God? What is your service to Him really like?**

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

Talk about discouragement. What has been discouraging to you? Have you had experiences of being discouraged? How can we build each other up to look at God through our circumstances, rather than looking at our circumstances through God.

Discipleship – growing in Christ both cognitively and experientially

Building something for God is about seasons, stages and there is so much going on in the spiritual realm, that is invisible to the natural. Danger is that we are disappointed because things we pray or hope for don't happen! Jesus kept going — never let the fire go out! Continue to have a heart for God, church, people, leaders etc Don't let anything stop you serving God. Pray for this one to another.

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

We are described as 'polished arrows' – we are kept near and close. We have to be assured of the closeness of God. We are all the chosen servant of the Lord for something – even if it feels out of sight, really we are the ones that are hidden, prepared for effectiveness. How do you see this in your life?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

The discouragement you feel inside is real and comes from somewhere. All of us surely have found ourselves in a deep, dark valley when we expected to be on the

mountain tops. Whatever took us there, is so discouraging. This is something to look out for in others to share something of God with them.

**Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis
Praise God that you are hidden with Christ in God.**