

OPEN WATER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

APRIL 26 | MIKE MCKAY

Isaiah 43:1-3 • Hebrews 13:5-6 • Matthew 7:7-10 • Hebrews 4:16 • Philippians 4:6-7

Truths about God and His goodness give us a solid waypoint

Read the verses listed above every day for a week. If you don't get thru them all don't worry. Stop whenever you find something meaningful. Prayerfully ask God to teach you one truth each day!

1. *The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. — Isaiah 35:1-2*

The prophets of the Old Testament used images and poetry to describe a new world to come. A renewed world. How does nature help us see the timelessness, sovereignty and beauty of God? (See Isaiah 40 :25-26)

2. If suffering is one of the ways people grow, think about past trials and crisis you have faced. How was God faithful to you in the midst of them? Looking back would you now consider them times of growth?
3. Clare Degraaf wrote “Most Christians arrange their lives in such a way that they are not dependent on God, nor anyone else”. So....asking for help doesn't come easy for many of us (ouch). To what extent might that be true about you? Consider why that might be.
4. The character of the Father is to provide. Consider the trust Jesus placed in His heavenly Father, especially His last night (Luke 22:42-43). What might His prayer teach us about *asking*?
5. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What does this scripture assure us will happen when we make a request to God?
6. Biblical Waypoints are markers for decision-making and guidance that God wants us to discover. What verses and principles help you navigate the storms of life?
7. Consider these statements: YOU are a prized possession. GOD can be trusted. GOD is with us. Which one is hardest for you to live into right now? Which seems to come easiest?
8. Consider this final prayer for the week from Jeff Manion, [The Land Between](#):

Dear God, from this confusing place I plead your mercy. I need your strength and grace. I desire to emerge from this season with an enduring faith and a gracious spirit. Please use this desert to transform my life. I don't want this pain to go wasted. I don't understand this space, I want out of this space---but as long as I'm in this space, teach me to trust. I believe that you are good. I believe that you are wise. I believe that you love me. Each day surprise me with your goodness and provision. Protect my heart from bitterness and despair. Restore my joy and laughter. During this barren season, may I experience your faithfulness and taste of your goodness in ways I never known before. May I learn to trust you in ways I have never trusted you before. Help me in these things I pray, in Jesus name. Amen.