

Isaiah 43:16-21

8 December 2023

ICE BREAKER: What is Something You Want to Change or Improve Upon This Year?

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 16-17) As the **Lord** calls Israel to trust Him, He **identifies Himself**. He reminds the Israelites to remember Him for **what He has done**, the great **miracles** He has performed in their past. God reminds the Israelites who He is.

He is the Lord who “made a way (for them) through the sea, a path (for them) through the mighty waters”. He is the One who, for them, destroyed Pharaoh’s army, the enemy chasing to destroy them.

1. In this past year, describe one thing **God did to rescue you** or to **remind you of who He is**.

(Read verse 18) Before the Lord revealed to Israel the work He was about to do in her and for her in the future, He commanded her to do one thing. God called Israel, saying, “**Forget** the former things; **do not dwell on the past**.”

Before God will do a new work of rescue and redemption in the life of Israel, God wants to begin that new work in their thinking. For Israel to experience God’s new miracles, to even see how God will be moving in her life, she must let go of her past, to not dwell on her past.

2. What is something the Lord is calling you to **leave behind**, to **not dwell on** mentally, nor bring back into your life?

(Read verses 18-19) The Lord called Israel not to dwell on her past work of redemption from Him, not to expect Him to work in the future as He had in the past. Why was that a problem? Because Israel often confused God’s ends with His means.

The Lord always has the **same end** for us, to rescue us from sin and to make us a joyful, holy people who love Him and serve others. However, the **means** of how He does that are usually **not the same**. The Lord had rescued the Israelites when they were trapped by the waters, by making dry land through the Red Sea. Now the Lord would do the **reverse**. He would make water spring up on their desert, dry wasteland.

3. Describe **something new God is doing** in your life that you did **not expect** or need to be **open to**.

(Read verses 19-21) To **His people**, God promises to part the waters that entrap and threaten to drown them. When His people are wandering in the desert wasteland, the Lord springs up streams of water to quench and revive them. When they lose their way, the Lord makes a way in and out of their desert.

All this is what God does for His people. But all these blessings are not just for the enjoyment of His people. All God’s work for His people is so “that they may **proclaim my praise**”. **The reason God blesses** His people is so they may witness His greatness and goodness to those **not yet His people**.

4. In what ways do you see God calling you to better **witness His Good News** to others?

Cut along Dotted Line & use Notes as Book Marker

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those, in your group, plan to witness Christ to this week.)
