

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Isaiah 58:6-14

For Starting

- What is one fictional character that you wish was a real person?
- If someone made a documentary about your life, what would be your favorite scene/moment? Why?
- What is one spiritual tradition you have or have always wanted to have in your life or family?
- What ONE question would you like to ask Jesus?
- What word or phrase stands out when you read this passage?

For Reviewing

- Identify the different activities that God is pleased with His people doing (v.6-7).
- What are some of the benefits and blessings that God gives to people who practice true religion (v.8-9a)?
- In what ways are people injured by backbiting, judgmental attitudes and harsh criticism (v.9b-10)?
- What are the good parts and the bad parts of 'keeping the Sabbath' (v.13-14)?

For Discussion

- What excuses do we use for not being generous to the poor – either in our communities or in our families? In what ways is “tough love” important to help people? In what ways could it hurt them?
- Are Christians required to keep the Sabbath today? What does ‘keeping the Sabbath’ show?
- Why will following God’s way and not our own way result in “joy in the Lord” (v.14)?
- *“There is no shortcut to joy and victory; they come through repentance, and a willingness to live God’s way”*. Do you agree/disagree? Why/why not? How does this impact our prayer lives today?
- How do unanswered prayers affect us individually, as a group and as a church?
- You could end by reading together Isaiah 58:11.

Isaiah 58:6-14 (NIV)

⁶ “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter –
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

¹³ “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the Lord’s holy day honourable,
and if you honour it by not going your own way
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,

¹⁴ then you will find your joy in the Lord,
and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.”

The mouth of the Lord has spoken.