

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ARTICLE Devotion by the Youth – Isaiah 49 PRAYER SPOTLIGHT Prayer for the Lost Sheeps

# Devotion by the Youth - Isaiah 49

#### Scripture Isaiah 49:14-16

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.







To get our latest announcement and upcoming events by Whatsapp, Save +6010-2206701 as FBCA in your contact list and text them to indicate that you want to register to get the announcements.



#### Observation

Zion's statement reflects how we feel, but God has reassured us that He never forgets us. v16 is interesting. By taking it literally, when God looks down (to His hands), He sees us. When He looks up, He sees us too. No matter what direction God looks at, He still remembers us. When humans look at different directions, we get 'distracted'. Imagine, God has so many things to handle and take care of, yet He chooses to focus on us.

#### Scripture Isaiah 49:6

he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob

and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,

that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

#### Observation

Isaiah was prophesying about the servant of the Lord, on one hand, it seems to be pointing towards Israel as the Lord's servant (v3), on the other hand, it points towards something greater that would bring salvation (Jesus).

I love this verse because it shows the faithfulness of God, from Genesis 12 till Isaiah 49, God has been true to one promise despite our failures, "How can I bless the whole earth through this one family, one nation, one man". And take note, to those who say that Christ is for the exclusive, this verse debunks that as salvation is for all, both Jew and Gentile, and to those till the ends of the Earth.

### Application

God never forgets me, but I always forget God. So, playing the blame game on God is no use. Instead, I should focus on prioritizing God in my life.

#### Prayer

Dear God, You have never forsaken us. I pray that I'll remember You more, not only in times of trouble but also in times of joy. I pray to not let distractions drift my attention away from you. Amen.



**by Joelle Chong** Joelle attended a discipleship group under Sarah Searle. She is currently overseas.

### Application

Two things here:-

1. Have I been treating the gospel as such as it was only exclusive to those whom I deem 'worthy to be saved?'

2. Have I paused, taking the time, and reflect on God's faithfulness towards men? The very object that brought shame to His glory, He chose to be faithful.

### Prayer

O God, how unfaithful are we as your people? We choose to make the gospel exclusive at times by keeping the good news to ourselves, we choose to forego your salvation and instead focus on petty things which bring no benefit nor glory to your name. Remind me O Lord of your faithfulness and in turn, give me a new heart and spirit that longs and thirsts for what you long and thirst. If it is to see your glory spread to the ends of the earth, lit a desire in me to do so. In Jesus name, Amen.



#### By Ivan Khoo

Ivan serves in the Youth Ministry and Campus Ministry with roles such as the discussion group leader, registration team, and youth committee



## **Prayer for the Lost Sheep**

Father God,

I pray for Your grace and mercy Lord, for You are our good Shepherd who has laid down Your life for Your sheep. I pray for those who have forgotten the ways they have been instructed in the ways of the Lord, who has chosen to be on a different path, and for those who have left the faith.

I pray for Your children who went astray and have gone their own way. You called Your sheep by name, for Your sheep will recognize Your voice and will come to You but their hearts right now are centered elsewhere, their mind is distracted and focused on their rights and wants rather than what God intended them to be.

Forgive them, I pray, for they have grieved and sinned against You. I uphold Your sons and daughters to You, O God. Guide them to see You and to be surrounded by the right people to show them Your way, Your Truth, and Your Life.

In Jesus name, Amen