

REJOICING IN NEW LIFE

Isaiah 53:9-12

Isaiah 54:1-5

Isaiah 55:10-13

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Why do Christians emphasize Christ's death, burial, and resurrection?
- What does Easter mean to you? Why?

Most often we reflect on Old Testament prophecies during Lent in our preparations for Easter and turn almost exclusively to the Gospels for the story of Easter, Christ's resurrection and victory over death . But we are remiss if we don't also dwell in the story of Easter found in Isaiah. After showing us the Suffering Servant, Isaiah's prophecies bring us through the resurrection and lead us to celebrate the hope of new life found in Christ's resurrection. And Isaiah doesn't stop there, he continues to show the ripple effect of Easter, giving us a glimpse of the transformational power of Christ's resurrection for all creation.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Is there an area in your life that needs the touch of Christ's resurrection for restoration and growth?
- When you read Isaiah 54:1-5 and the prophet's encouragement to make a bigger tent, what New Testament passages or stories come to mind? How do these stories reflect or share the idea that we need to make room, because God's kingdom is bigger and more inclusive than we originally understood?
- Why do we resist "making our tent bigger," making room for more in the body of Christ? Is there one small change you could make in your life that would make your "tent" just a little bit bigger?
- Why does it matter that salvation is not just for humans, but that it includes all creation?
- What affect does/should an Easter faith have on your attitude and perspective? How can you live out your Easter faith daily in a way that will bring transformation to people, creation, and the community around you?

Related Passages

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-23**
- **Luke 24:1-12**
- **Acts 25-26**

Conclusion

As you celebrate Easter and reflect on how Christ's resurrection brings transformation and new life, consider this prayer from The Worship Sourcebook:

God of our salvation,
You have restored us to life,
You have brought us back again into your love
By the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ:
Continue to heal us
As we go to live and work
In the power of your Spirit,
To your praise and glory. Amen.

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