

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, August 21, 2022 (Pentecost 11)

Isiah 58:1-14

Discussion Starters

1. What is fasting? When should God's people fast?
2. How did the people's view of fasting differ from God's view? What would be different about what they did if they viewed it in the same way God did?
3. What is the connection between religious activities and a concern for justice?
4. What attitudes are necessary in order for any religious practice to be acceptable to God?
5. Why does God want us to stop finger pointing (v. 9)? What are areas in which we do that?

Hebrews 12:4-29

Discussion Starters

1. What is the purpose of hardships in our lives?
2. Define "discipline" as used in this passage. What is the purpose of God's discipline in our lives? How does God administer His discipline?
3. What spiritual benefits can result from God's discipline?
4. What does it mean to be "holy?"
5. In what way(s) is God like a "consuming fire?"

Luke 13:10-17

Discussion Starters

1. The Gospel writer seems to suggest this woman's issue was spiritual (v. 10). What role does the spiritual play in physical ailments? To what degree do you think that is still a problem today?
2. How does Jesus address the ruler's hypocrisy?
3. What tensions exist between legitimately caring for the needs of people and religious rules?
4. What about this experience humiliated the religious rulers?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?