

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, April 6, 2025 (Lent 5)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Discussion Starters

1. What historical event does God (through the prophet Isaiah) refer to as he begins this particular text?
2. Why does God want the people to forget about this event? What is the purpose of reflecting on things God has done in the past?
3. What "new thing" is God doing for the people of Israel? What new thing is God doing in your life? In the lives of people you see around you?
4. What does God mean by the imagery of "streams in the desert?" How would this be "good news" to the people who heard (and who hear it now)?

Philippians 3:4-14

Discussion Starters

1. What reasons did Paul have to be confident about his standing with God (prior to his conversion)? What opinion did he have of those reasons now? Why the change?
2. What faulty things do people today rely on to give them confidence about their relationship with God?
3. Using the imagery of a track race, where does Paul picture himself in his spiritual life? Where are you in your race?
4. What prize is he striving for? How is he going to reach it?
5. How would you complete the sentence Paul begins in verse 13: "But one thing I do: _____."

John 12:1-11

Discussion Starters

1. How does Jesus interpret Mary's actions? Why do you suppose Mary did it?
2. Why does Judas object to Mary's actions?
3. How does verse 8 apply to the people in that room? How does it apply to us?
4. Do you think Jesus knew that Judas was stealing from the treasury? If so, why did he allow that to continue?
5. Why would the chief priests want to kill Lazarus?

WRAP UP

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