

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, July 19, 2026 (Pentecost 8)

Isaiah 44:6-8

Discussion Starters

1. How does this passage describe the uniqueness of God?
2. What titles and descriptors does God use of Himself? What do each of these mean?
3. Why is it important for God to draw a distinction between Himself and the idols that were prevalent in the culture? Why is that distinction still important today?
4. What "gods" have people in our culture shaped for themselves? Why are people attracted to such "gods?"
5. Also read Isaiah 44:12-20. How is God different than all those other "gods?"

Romans 8:12-25

Discussion Starters

1. How are we to deal with our sinful nature?
2. What does it mean to be "led by the Spirit?"
3. What is the closest you have come to feeling a "groaning" in your spirit to see the final triumph over sin and death?
4. How would Paul's words (especially in verses 18-25) be meaningful to these Roman Christians in a time of persecution?
5. What does Paul mean by the phrase "hope that is seen is no hope at all?"

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Discussion Starters

1. In the parable of the weeds (vv. 24-30), who is the sower? What does the wheat represent? The weeds? The enemy? The harvest?
2. Why does this parable puzzle the disciples so? Why is the idea of patience and tolerance difficult for them (and us)? Where is the appropriate line between patience and discipline?
3. What does this passage teach about church purity and human accountability?
4. How can "over-zealous judgment" of the world and its evils harm our mission as believers?

WRAP UP

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