

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, August 23, 2026 (Pentecost 13)

Isaiah 51:1-6

Discussion Starters

1. Chapters 51:1-52:12 are an extended poem, summing up God's intent for the exiles. How is their current situation like that of Abraham and Sarah?
2. Since Abraham was old and his wife, Sarah, was barren, why would God use this as an example for the exiles?
3. What phrases here give you hope?
4. Describe a time when God's promises seemed like mere words to you. How did you find hope in such a time?

Romans 12:1-8

Discussion Starters

1. How can you offer your body as a living sacrifice?
2. What does verse 1 add to your understanding of true worship?
3. In what ways do you tend to "conform" to this world?
4. How does the "renewing of the mind" happen?
5. What spiritual gifts are identified in this passage? What spiritual gifts has God given you?

Matthew 16:13-20

Discussion Starters

1. Why did some people think Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the other prophets?
2. What was significant about Peter's confession?
3. What are the keys of the kingdom? What do they "bind" and "loose?"
4. What does it mean that the "gates of Hades" will not overcome the church?
5. What is the "rock" upon which the church will be built?

WRAP UP

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