

GOD'S PLAN (part of the whole story series pt. 5) Overcoming Affences

Key Scriptures

Isaiah 1:13-15 Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings disgusts me! As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath and *your special days* for fasting— *they are all sinful and false.*

I want no more of your *pious meetings.* ¹⁴ I hate your new moon celebrations and your annual festivals. *They are a burden to me.* I cannot stand them! ¹⁵ When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, *for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims.* NLT

Isaiah 1:2-4 Listen, O heavens! Pay attention, earth! This is what the Lord says: *“The children I raised and cared for have rebelled against me.*

³ Even an ox knows its owner, and a donkey recognizes its master’s care— but *Israel doesn’t know its master. My people don’t recognize my care for them.*” ⁴ Oh, what a sinful nation they are— loaded down with a burden of guilt. They are evil people, corrupt *children who have rejected*

the Lord. They have despised the Holy One of Israel and *turned their backs on him.* NLT

Isaiah 1:5-6 *Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever?* Your head is injured, and your heart is sick. ⁶ You are battered from head to foot— covered with bruises, welts, and infected wounds— without any soothing ointments or bandages. NLT

Isaiah 1:18 “Come, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are crimson red, they will be like wool.

Isaiah 1:27 Zion will be redeemed by justice, those who repent, by righteousness. CSB

Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Matthew 13:11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Luke 9:48... For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

Matthew 6:9-10 ⁹“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Who is someone you love to pick on (lovingly), and what is your favorite way to pick on them?
- OR is there someone who picks on you (lovingly) and what do they do to pick on you!?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Isaiah Chapter 1. Identify the relational hurt God’s people are causing Him and the invitations to grace and redemption God is giving them.
- Looking at Isaiah 1:13-15, God rebuked Judah for having a life full of “Religious Activity” and void of “Spiritual (relational) Discipline.” What are some modern examples of these issues?
- Thinking about the former question; how do you avoid Judah’s problem and keep your life full of spiritual discipline and void of religious activity?
- How has this message impacted your view of redemption and repentance? For additional study, look at 2 Corinthians 7:8-13.

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- When we’re in an “all about me” state of mind in relationships, sometimes our repentant attitude and the life-change accompanied by it is the catalyst to transformation in those around us. Is God calling you to repent of something that is hindering your relationship with a friend or family member? How do you think redeeming that component of your relationship will impact that person?

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words over the person next to you!

Our Father in Heaven and our King on the Throne, we praise you for both your love and your compassionate ruling over your creation. Praise you, oh Father! Magnify your name in our lives! Lead us to repentant hearts before you, laying down every stronghold of iniquity within us. We love you and hate anything that lessens the health of our relationship with you! Draw us closer and closer to you and to our brothers and sisters in Christ for your name’s sake and for generations behind us. We ask this in Jesus’ name, amen!

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Pray for God to show you every area of your life that is in need of repentance. Pause for 2-3 minutes asking God to show you every offence you’re guilty and unrepentant of. Are you ready to repent and redeem that area of your life? If not, what is stopping you?
- Be a safe place for others to share their stories of repentance and redemption.

Find out more by checking out
the series “GOD’S PLAN” at
www.myrestore.church