

LIVE NEW: Week 3 1.19.14

[set up]

Have you ever felt shame, oppressed or under a great burden? What led to these feelings and how did you get freed from them?

What typically happens to a person's faith in God during these kinds of times, especially if you're praying and it seems to be taking a while to shake off?

[digging deeper]

Read Isaiah 61:7 from this last weekend and share any thoughts or insights that have remained with you from service.

What does it mean to rejoice in your portion or lot? Another way to think of this question is what does it mean that God is our portion? (Lam. 3:24; Ps. 16:5; 73:6; 119:57; 142:5; Eccl. 5:18-19)

How has God rescued you from captivity and bondage?

How has God doubled your portion and given you everlasting joy?

How can we have faith in God while we are in waiting for release, restoration or final fulfillment of these verses?

Good parallel Scriptures to this passage are Isaiah 51 & 52, for they also speak of God's message and promise to Israel as they are held captive in Babylon. Read through them.

- What language of oppression and distress did you pick up on?
- What language of rescue and judgment did you catch?
- What expressions of restoration and joy did you see and hear?

Although this was a promise to Israel regarding their release and restoration from their Babylonian captivity, how can we relate to the message in these verses and how can we apply the principles we see to our own lives?



[living it out]

What are 2-3 ways you can walk away living your life with a greater rejoicing over the restoration, portion and lot God has provided for you?

In a journal, a blank page in your Bible or a notesheet, take some time today (and tomorrow if you need it) to write down how God has increased and multiplied your portion, lot and joy. Also write down what He has restored, or brought you back to.

Looking over that list, turn each one of the things you listed into a “thank-You” prayer to God as you pray today and throughout this week

In that same journal, page or sheet, write down the top 3 prayer requests you have for future restoration hopes, either for you or someone you care about. Spend some time today and this week praying over that list in the hope and faith that God will answer those request.

Optional worship exercise: if you are in a LifeGroup or by yourself, here are a couple songs you can use to reflect on, or lead you into or out of a prayer time. You can find them and download them on your own or just use these links.

Made Me Glad by Hillsong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qy2XD2bz9c>

My Healer by Hillsong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE6xFeWA3kw>