

LifeGroup

Discussion Guide



A FRESH START WITH GOD

BIG IDEA: Embrace the new things God is doing in our lives and trust Him for renewal.

DATE: August 10, 2025

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:15-21

OPENING QUESTION

Growing up, when did you typically go back to school – before or after Labor Day? Were you excited about the new school year or were you the kid who went kicking and screaming?

Whether it's a new school year, a fresh new calendar page, or a fresh start in a new career or relationship – we all long for something new. When have you experienced a fresh start in your life? What did it mean to you?

THE SETTING

Isaiah is a book of the Bible written more than 2700 years ago by a man who obeyed God's call to be His prophet, God's mouthpiece to His people. Isaiah spoke to his original audience regarding current events, but also prophesied happenings that have since been fulfilled, like the birth of the Messiah, and some that have yet to come to fruition as they speak of the future return of Christ. Isaiah will help us discover that God extends His hand toward us. He doesn't crush us when we are weak; rather, He renews our strength and walks with us through the trials and difficulties we will face. Through His mercy we can get a fresh start.

STUDY THE BIBLE: ISAIAH 43:15-21

I am the LORD, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King."

¹⁶This is what the LORD says—

he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,

¹⁷who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

¹⁸"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.
²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ ISAIAH 43:15-21

Let Go of the Past

Isaiah 43:18 reminds us to *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."* God wants us to move forward, not be held back by past failures or regrets.

- What character qualities and displays of power in the past did God bring to their attention?
- What did the Lord tell him to do with the memories of the past, and why?
- How does God provide fresh starts in our lives? What would a "fresh start" look like in your life right now?

Recognize God's Work

Sometimes, we don't see the new things God is doing because we're focused on old struggles. These verses remind us to open our eyes to His plans.

- Where is God at work in your life?
- What lessons can we take from past experiences into this new season?
- How can we trust God even when we don't see immediate change?

Trust God for the Impossible

Just as He promises to make *"a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland,"* God can bring hope and provision in the most unexpected places.

- As a new season approaches where are you trusting God to bring hope and provision?
- What are some practical ways to renew or rededicate our faith journey?

RESPONSE

Where are you in need of a fresh start in your life? Isaiah 43:25 reminds us God "blots out your transgressions" and "remembers your sin no more." Let go of the past, recognize where God is at work and trust God for the impossible!