



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Worship Theme: The Father of will redeem his children
Sermon Theme: Father of Promise for All
December 2-4, 2023

Isaiah 63:16; 64:4-9 But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. ^{64:4} Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. ⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

1. What is the best nickname for a person, someone you know or someone you've only heard about? Do you have a nickname?
2. What do nicknames communicate about a person their given name is unable to?
3. What name or title of God's is most comforting to you, fills you with the most (godly) pride, reveals the tenderest side of God's heart to you?
4. Many psalms go through the process of a child of God wondering why God lets injustice and wickedness go on, why God seems to be aloof or even hid himself from us. The larger section in Isaiah

the sermon lesson is from does the same. How do you, child of God, work through those times?

5. Why is it nothing but beneficial to acknowledge God as Father and Redeemer?
6. God is a gracious God who provides all we need spiritually and physically. Isaiah says in **64:5**, "*but when we continued to sin...*" What does the human response to God's grace reveal about us?
7. About 15 times in this sermon lesson, Isaiah uses inclusive language to show that we're very much all alike under sin and under grace. How is this knowledge crucial if we're going to think of ourselves and others accurately?
8. The prophet is very direct about our righteous acts in **64:5**. These rags are the equivalent to used personal products. If this what our righteous acts are like, how can we possibly do anything in which God does actually take delight and not just be like that Pharisee in the Temple praying about himself all the time? Consider **Hebrews 11:6**, "*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*" **John 15:5**, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*" **Philippians 2:13**, "*For it God who works in you the will to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*"
9. What does our Father do for us always because he is gracious?