

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, this is what the LORD says –

he who created you,
Jacob,
he who formed you,
Israel:

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel,
your Saviour;

I give Egypt for your ransom,

Cush and Seba in your stead.

⁴ Since you are precious and honoured in my sight,
and because I love you,

I will give people in exchange for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

I will bring your children from the east

and gather you from the west.

⁶ I will say to the north,
"Give them up!"

and to the south, "Do not hold them back."

Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth –

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made.'

Study questions ... November 11th '18

1. What life lessons have you drawn from the commemorations of the 100 years since the end of WW1?

2. Read Isaiah 43:1-7.

i) What does this passage show us about the character of God?

ii) God uses very personal words in this passage to describe the relationship He has with His people. Identify these descriptions. How does such a personal relationship with God impact you?

iii) Read Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 1:16; John 14:27; 1 Peter 1:18; to see how God's promises are reiterated in the New Testament. What other passages do you know that underline these promises?

iv) What command is repeated in v1 & 5? What is your experience of bringing the fears in your life to God?

3. In John 15:13 Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

This verse describes ultimate sacrificial love, and is rightly often quoted at Remembrance Services.

"Laying down your life for others" also means putting them first and making their need more important than your own. The verse is about being selfless and sacrificial in our actions towards others rather than selfish.

Look at John 13:1-17. How can we increasingly follow Jesus' example of a lifestyle of service?

4. Watch again the Bible Society clip shown in church <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/england-and-wales/world-war-1/?referrer=worldwar1>

Talk about how the promises of the Bible that brought comfort to soldiers in the trenches, can also bring hope into our lives.

