

Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



December 8, 2024

“Trust God’s Promises” - #2 in the Advent series Do Not Fear

Texts (NLT): Isaiah 43:1-3a, Matthew 1:23, Psalm 145:13-14

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider the effects of broken promises - *distrust, feeling undervalued, anger/resentment, low self-esteem, anxiety/stress, emotional withdrawal, and skepticism.*
 - Is it possible to recover from a broken promise?
 - How would you describe the recovery process?
3. **Read Isaiah 43:1.**
 - Why might the Israelites, living in exile in Babylon, have been skeptical, even believing they were victims of God’s broken promises?
 - How do our expectations affect the ways we react to broken promises?
4. **Read Isaiah 43: 2-3a.**
 - Consider God’s three promises to the Israelites:
 - I will be with you when you go through deep waters
 - You will not drown in the waters of difficulty.
 - The flames of oppression will not consume you.
 - Why would these metaphorical images have resonated with the Israelites?
 - Which of these promises speaks to you? Why?
5. **Read Matthew 1:23 (for context 18-25).**
 - How did God calm Joseph’s fear about Mary giving birth to Jesus?
 - In what ways has God helped you trust him in a fearful situation - or even afterward?
6. **Read Psalm 145:13-14.**
 - How do you respond to the idea that it’s not if we’ll encounter fearful situations but when?
 - How would you respond to someone struggling to trust God’s promises because they remain in a fearful or difficult situation?
7. How can we pray for you?