

Read: Isaiah 43:16-21

Remember You Are My People

Isaiah 43:16,18-21

This is what the LORD says—he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland ... to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself.”

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The people looked back in fear as they ran as fast as they could from the enemy army. But how could they outrun galloping horses pulling chariots filled with soldiers. An entire army was rapidly gaining on them. Just a few days before, they experienced their first taste of real freedom after hundreds of years of slavery. All because God stepped in with powerful displays of might. They looked back and thought, “Why is this happening?”

Have you ever felt that? Someone hurt you and you asked, “Why do I feel like everyone is against me? Why am I the one always hurting?” Did you ever want to say, “God, don’t tell me I’m yours, show me! Get me out of this mess!”

God knows you. He knows where you are at in life. He knows what you are experiencing and feeling. And he has not forgotten that you belong to him. “Remember, you are my people,” he once said to those people being chased by an enemy army. “Remember the day when I made a road where there was no road right in the middle of a sea? I stacked up walls of water so you could walk safely through on dry ground. Remember how I demolished the entire army that was threatening you so they would never again hurt you.”

Today, God says to you, “Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing. You are mine.” Remember how he saved you—Jesus a Lamb of sacrifice—“He sighed, he died. He took my sin and wretchedness.” But remember, “He lives and forgives! He gives me his own righteousness” (Christian Worship 525:4). Remember how he demolished Satan and destroyed the power of death and hell. “Because you are my people,” he says, “and you share my name.” God will never let his name be made fun of. He will rescue you, for *his* sake.

When you get hurt and ask, “Why is this happening to me?” imagine a road that will lead you to safely through to the other side. God chose you for something bigger and better than your problems. Remember, you belong to him!

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for the Younger Children

- Tell your parent(s) about a time when your feelings got hurt. What did they say to make you feel better?
- What did God say in today's devotion that makes you feel better?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- "You are my people," God says. What has he done to prove that is true for you?
- What is the connection between your baptism and today's devotion?

Questions for Middle School and Above

- A lot of kids get their feelings hurt, but don't handle it well. Think through how you want to handle the hurt the next time it happens to you. What would you do differently?
- Think of someone whose feelings you recently hurt. Determine how you can correct that wrong and make it right.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, there are times I get hurt and feel all alone. The next time it happens, help me remember that you wrote your name on me with permanent marker. I'm yours! Help me wait patiently for you to rescue me. Amen.