

# Discussion Guide: Telling the Story Out Loud

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9

## 1. Setting the Stage: Remembering Together

Isaiah chooses to “recount the steadfast love of the Lord.” Remembering is not automatic, it is intentional and often communal.

### Reflection

- Why do you think Scripture places such importance on *speaking* God’s faithfulness out loud?
- In what ways do you find it easier, or harder, to remember God’s work at the end of a year?

### Practice (Optional)

- Read Isaiah 63:7-9 aloud together before continuing.

## 2. Movement One: Choosing to Remember

(Isaiah 63:7a)

Isaiah begins by deciding to remember before naming details.

### Reflection

- How would you describe the past year in one word or short phrase?
- What emotions surface as you think back over the year?

### For Groups or Families

- Go around and let each person share a single word or phrase without explanation.
- Notice the variety of responses.

## 3. Movement Two: Naming God’s Gifts

(Isaiah 63:7b)

Gratitude does not erase hardship, but it refuses to let hardship be the only story.

### Reflection

- Where did you see God's goodness this year, big or small?
- Were there quiet or ordinary moments that revealed God's faithfulness in hindsight?

#### **For Groups or Families**

- Invite each person to share one specific example of God's goodness.
- Keep responses brief to allow space for everyone.

## **4. Movement Three: God With Us in Affliction**

*(Isaiah 63:9a)*

"In all their affliction, he was afflicted."

#### **Reflection**

- What stands out to you about the idea that God enters into His people's suffering?
- Where did you experience pain, loss, or struggle this year?

#### **Gentle Application**

- Did you notice God's presence in that hardship, even if the situation didn't change?
- If you didn't, what questions or tensions remain for you?

#### **For Groups**

- Allow people to pass if they don't wish to share. Silence is a valid response.

## **5. Movement Four: Carried Forward**

*(Isaiah 63:9b)*

God's faithfulness is not only something to look back on, it is something to trust moving forward.

#### **Reflection**

- As you look ahead, what are you trusting God with in the coming year?
- What feels heavy, uncertain, or unresolved as you move forward?

#### **For Groups or Families**

- Invite each person to name one word, hope, prayer, or concern they are placing in God's care.

## **6. Prayerful Response**

Close your time by returning what has been shared to God.

### **Suggested Prayer Structure**

- Thank God for His steadfast love.
- Acknowledge both joy and affliction.
- Entrust the coming days, months, and year to Him.

### **Closing Prayer**

“Lord, teach us to remember Your faithfulness, to speak it aloud,  
and to trust You with what comes next. Carry us, as You always have. Amen.”