

Telling the Story Out Loud

Isaiah 63:7-9

Introduction

- Celebration Sunday as a guided act of worship
- Remembering God's work together at the end of the year
- Isaiah's choice to recount the steadfast love of the Lord
- Remembering as something spoken, communal, and intentional

Context of Isaiah 63

- Part of a larger prayer late in the book of Isaiah
- Written after judgment, exile, loss, and waiting
- Not a victory-lap prayer, but a prayer in unresolved tension
- Remembering as a way to anchor hope

Movement One: Choosing to Remember

(Isaiah 63:7a)

- "I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord"
- Remembering as an act of faith
- Acknowledging where this year has found us

Question:

- *"In just one word or short phrase, what kind of year has this been for you?"*

Movement Two: Naming God's Gifts

(Isaiah 63:7b)

- God's goodness alongside hardship
- Gratitude as trained vision
- Speaking God's faithfulness aloud

Question:

- *"Where did you see God's goodness this year, big or small?"*

Movement Three: God With Us in Affliction

(Isaiah 63:9a)

- “In all their affliction, he was afflicted”
- God’s presence in suffering
- Honest faith that makes room for grief

Questions:

- *“If this year included real grief, loss, or deep struggle for you, would you be willing to raise your hand? Would anyone like to briefly share where God met you in that hardship?”*

Movement Four: Carried Forward

(Isaiah 63:9b)

- God lifting up and carrying His people
- Faithfulness that continues into the future

Question:

- *“As you look toward the coming year, what are you trusting God with, or asking Him to carry?”*

Corporate Prayer & Closing

- Recounting God’s steadfast love
- Naming goodness and affliction
- Entrusting the coming year to God