

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 “Our Future“- Pastor Bryan James



**SERMON SYNOPSIS:** Isaiah is an old treasure that comes with promises and new meaning for us today. Pastor Bryan taught that the barren woman is symbolic for the redemption and re-gathering of spiritual Israel. For believers, it is also representative of our life BEFORE entering into a covenant relationship with Christ and His community.

**WELCOME:** What is your favorite childhood memory?

**WORSHIP:** Broken Vessels- Hillsong- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiyYoe678yI>

## **WORD:**

### **Read Isaiah 54:1-3**

- What was your life like before you started to follow Jesus?
- What has been most difficult in following your faith?
- Make a list of promises made by God in these verses that give you confidence to walk with Christ. What promises did you write from these verses? Share how you have responded with shouts of joy as the Israelites did (v.1).
- As believers, we are gathered with God’s people into a community. Share how you have experienced a covering in your life that didn’t exist prior to being integrated into God’s assembly of believers.

### **Read Isaiah 54:4-6**

- Share how Christ has been/is removing shame from your life.
- Which of the promises in these verses encourage you the most?
- Where is God trying to reconcile your experience (e.g., painful circumstance) with His promises? Is God whispering to you a promise that your personal history will not repeat itself?

### **Read Isaiah 54:7-17**

- How do/would our lives look different by believing/knowing that God will never leave us?
- How and why should our belief in these promises affect the way we worship in church?
- How will you respond to the promise of grace/redemption in Christ?

**WITNESS:** God is calling us to participate in His promises. In what ways are you confident in sharing the love/grace of Christ with those around you? Since Christ has removed our shame, go out and share how Jesus removes condemnation and replaces it with conviction and the ability to change through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in His time and way.