

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Discuss

1. Do you agree with the statement “God cannot be defined”? In what ways is this statement true? How is the statement limited? What is the adverse effect of trying to overly define God?
2. Why do you think Isaiah uses the image of a vineyard owner to describe God? Why does this image work? Why does Jesus often use agricultural images to talk about and describe God?
3. What does it mean when we say “God is source”? What does this mean to you? How does an awareness of God as the source of life give a proper perspective on life? How do we maintain an awareness of God as source?
4. Are you surprised that “justice” and “righteousness” are the standards by which the vineyard in Isaiah’s poem (the people of Judah) is evaluated? Did you expect a different standard? Why are these concepts the key factors by which life is measured?
5. How would you define the concepts of “justice” and “righteousness”? How does Isaiah’s poem define them (what does he indicate are their opposites)? What does it look like to live a life of justice and righteousness in the ordinary affairs of every day?
6. Do you think that “What goes around comes around”? In what ways have you seen this principle work? In what ways does it not work? How does living by the standards of justice and righteousness create positive outcomes in our lives? What kind of crop do we harvest when we live by these principles?
7. How has Isaiah’s image of God as a vineyard owner informed or changed your understanding of God? What is your biggest takeaway about God from this poem?

