

### **Isaiah 57:14-21 New Living Translation**

**14** God says, "Rebuild the road!

Clear away the rocks and stones  
so my people can return from captivity."

**15** The high and lofty one who lives in eternity,  
the Holy One, says this:

"I live in the high and holy place  
with those whose spirits are contrite and humble.

I restore the crushed spirit of the humble  
and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.

**16** For I will not fight against you forever;  
I will not always be angry.

If I were, all people would pass away—  
all the souls I have made.

**17** I was angry,  
so I punished these greedy people.

I withdrew from them,  
but they kept going on their own stubborn way.

**18** I have seen what they do,  
but I will heal them anyway!  
I will lead them.

I will comfort those who mourn,

**19** bringing words of praise to their lips.

May they have abundant peace, both near and far,"  
says the Lord, who heals them.

**20** "But those who still reject me are like the restless sea,  
which is never still  
but continually churns up mud and dirt.

**21** There is no peace for the wicked,"  
says my God.

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Share with your group something positive you hope to see happen in the near future?

What happens when we run out of hope?

Have you ever heard the phrase, "God will never give you more than you can handle?" Do you agree or disagree with this phrase? Why?

Read Romans 7:15-17. Have you ever felt this way? Why is it so important to admit to God and ourselves that "I can't"?

In the sermon, John shared four areas of life that we try to control: our image, other people, our problems, and our pain. Pick one of these and share how you have sought control in that area and how it has worked out for you.

What happens when we try to control everything and be God?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. When we can't, God can. Reflect on this. What thoughts or feelings come to mind.

Share an area in which you need help admitting you are powerless over. How can your group pray for you concerning this area?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**