

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**  
**RESTORE**

## Message Summary

This week, Pastor John Carter began a new series called Restore. God is a God of Restoration. It is one of the first characteristics we learn about God (Genesis 1). God will allow destruction and disillusionment, but the purpose is to restart and make new things out of the process of restoration. God doesn't want stumbles or falls, but He has made a commitment to His promise to restore. In fact, this was Jesus' purpose in coming to save us, to restore that which was broken. God is *always* ready to restore and to bless, and he has called us restorers because we are His children. And yet, there are many in the church who are experiencing distress, grief, loss and tiredness, because of the hardship they have faced. But God promises to restore us – to give us beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for our mourning. God is resetting and restoring everywhere in this season. Now is the time to get into the mind reset of restoration. We must return to the Lord in our hearts and He will restore us. What God is going to do next cannot be built on the infrastructure of what was before. We must focus what God wants us to do next. Because God has moved us into a season of restoration, of healing, of rebuilding, and of remembering the power of the name of Jesus on the lips of His people.

**Pastor John Carter:** *"Our job as the church is to experience restoration, so that we can turn around and share it with others who need it, too."*

## Key Scriptures: (Read all of Isaiah 49 and 61)

- **[Isaiah 49:8-9 NIV]** 8 This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, [Isa 49:9-10, 13, 22 NIV] 9 to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.
- **[Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV]** 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion--to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair..."

## Discussion Questions

1. Have you felt tired, grieved or distressed in this season?
2. How do you need restoration in your life now?
3. What promises of restoration and renewal can you find in the Bible? How can you stand on them?

## Life Application

Over the next 40 days of the Lent season (beginning tomorrow), we challenge you to intentionally pull away and spend time in God's word reading chapter by chapter through first the book of Mark and then the book of John. Ask the Holy Spirit what God is saying to you through the chapters about restoration in your own life. And for the next 40 days, we challenge to fast something that you can give up to make more room in your life for time spent with the Lord. Now is the time to return to Lord and to allow him to restore you!