

October 26, 2025

## Study Guide: Isaiah 49 – Feeling Forgotten, Remembering God’s Unrestrained Love

**Theme Verse:** “*But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.’*” — *Isaiah 49:14*

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### 1. Longing for Home

*Read Isaiah 49:1–7*

Israel’s exile in Babylon paints a picture of humanity’s greater exile from God. We live in a world that is not as it should be—marked by both beauty and brokenness—and our hearts long for restoration.

#### Reflect

- When have you felt a deep longing for something more—something beyond this world?
- How does recognizing our longing help us understand our need for God’s redemption?

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### 2. Feeling Forgotten

*Read Isaiah 49:14*

In their despair, God’s people cry out that they feel forsaken. This verse captures the honesty of faith when emotions and experience seem to contradict what we know about God.

#### Reflect

- Why do you think God allows His people to express such deep feelings of abandonment?
- What are some ways you’ve experienced that same tension—knowing truth but feeling forgotten?

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### 3. The Servant of God

*Read Isaiah 49:1–13*

Isaiah introduces God’s servant—one called from the womb, speaking truth like a sharp sword, bringing light to the nations. Initially Israel was called to be that servant, but in their failure, God raised up a perfect servant—Jesus Christ.

#### Reflect

- What descriptions in this passage remind you of Jesus?
- How does knowing that Jesus fulfills this prophecy bring hope to those who feel forgotten?

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### 4. When Faith Feels Fragile

Even faithful servants can feel shaken. Andrew Brunson's story of imprisonment and doubt reminds us that even when our faith breaks, God's faithfulness holds.

### Reflect

- How does Brunson's honesty help normalize moments of spiritual struggle?
- What can his story teach us about trusting God even when we don't sense His presence?

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## 5. God's Unrestrained Love

*Read Isaiah 49:15–26*

God answers His people's despair with an overwhelming picture of love:

- Like a nursing mother who cannot forget her child.
- Like a craftsman with your name engraved on His hands.
- Like a king who fights for His people and promises their restoration.

### Reflect

- What image of God's love in this passage speaks most powerfully to you?
- How do these verses assure us that God's promises will never fail?

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## 6. Trusting in the Darkness

*Cross Reference: Isaiah 50:10*

"Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God." Faith does not deny the darkness but chooses to trust in the God who is light.

### Reflect

- What does trusting in God's character look like when you cannot see His work?
- How might your current "hard place" become a setting for His beautiful rescue?

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## 7. Living in Light of His Love

Even when we feel forgotten, God never forgets His own. Through His servant, Jesus, He has made a way from exile to home, from despair to joy.

### Reflect

- What would change in your life if you believed—deep down—that God can never forget you?
- How might you share that assurance with someone who feels abandoned today?