

Discussion Questions

January 3, 2021

“My New Name,” Isaiah 62:1-5

- 1 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- 2 The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
- 5 For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you. (New Revised Standard Version)

Discussion Questions & Things to Ponder

- Have you ever taken on a new name? If you have, what kinds of questions and pondering did you do when faced with that experience? If you’ve not ever taken on a new name, what comes with taking on a new identity both good and bad.
- Reflect a little on 2020 as we just begin 2021. What would you like to leave behind as we end this very tumultuous year? What are some things you’d like to carry forward from 2020 that have been positive in your life?

- Consider 1st John 3:1 says, “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” What are 5 important aspects or benefits of being one of God’s children? When it says in Isaiah 61:4 that God delights in you, what does this mean for how you live life day to day?
- If we are to leave behind a hurtful or false identity that someone believes about us, or that we have inflicted upon ourselves in order to be healthy, what do you need to leave behind in 2020? What’s one thing you need to do to start the process of shedding that painful identity you need to leave behind?
- Here’s an example of a prayer that may be helpful: “God, I leave at your altar this morning my name _____. This name hurts me and others. If I have brought this name upon myself, please forgive me. If I have been unfairly labeled with this name, please help me to forgive those who see me in this way. As the New Year is a time for leaving the old year behind, I want to leave this name behind. Amen.”
- Isaiah 62:1 says, “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.” Isaiah was encouraging the people to not be silent but to step forward and claim their new identity grounded in their relationship with God. This is primarily between you and God. What is God prompting you to step forward and claim as we begin this new year?