

# ONLY GOD CAN RESTORE & REBUILD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ISAIAH 54:6-17

- 1 **Have you ever felt barren, broken, or besieged in life?** Take a few moments to write out a personalized spiritual description that correlates with the imagery used in Isaiah 54. (Example: Barren woman – Just as a barren woman would have felt shame, and inadequacy so in my own spiritual life this past week I have felt like that before God because of sinful choices. I've felt a weight of self-reproach and deficiency before a holy God).

 Barren Woman

 Broken Marriage

 Besieged City

♥ *Now spend a few moments reflecting on the fact that God's love isn't based on your loveliness, but rather his grace. If you forsake your wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts and return to the Lord, he is willing to forgive you (Is 55:7). He is willing to replace your spiritual poverty with wealth, your turbulence with security, and your despair with comfort. You don't deserve his faithful love, but God wants you to enjoy it. Take some time to praise him for his great grace.*

- 2 **God's love in Isaiah 54 provides a wonderful example for us.** In (v. 8) two descriptions of this love are provided. The first is everlasting L\_\_\_\_\_ and the second is C\_\_\_\_\_. Devotion or everlasting love is centered in the will. It is God's steadfast determination and commitment to love you. Compassion on the other hand is centered in the emotions. It is God's heart of love toward you. Fickle and flighty people like us could learn a lot about love from our faithful God.

⚙️ *When it comes to disappointing people and frustrating relationships, how can God's stance toward you strengthen your devotion? How can his everlasting love for you bolster your determination to love others?*

♥ *Who is it in your life that is hard to love? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you take some time right now and ask God to help you love this person with determined devotion? Love is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and so you'll need his help to love difficult people.*

♥ *When it comes to deficient and broken people, God wants you to display compassion like him. I think God's compassion flows from his ability to see past people as they are, and see them for who they can become. If your spouse or your child, your neighbor or co-worker is hard to love because of some deficiency or measure of brokenness, ask God to help you see them for who they can become instead of who they presently are. Ask God to give you a compassionate heart.*

📖 *Look up the following verses on compassion and mercy and write down some reflections or lessons learned in the space below (Matt. 5:7; 9:36; Ps 86:15)*

