

**WEEK 2 | CAN A MOTHER FORGET?
ISAIAH 49:1-16**



ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin as a tool to do so. If you haven't had a chance yet, make sure and do the Community Group Self-Assessment.

If you get a chance, take some time and give thanks for all the growth of the New City Kids ministry. (Especially praise God for the 2 new baby boys born this week to the Kaufmanns and the Wu's). We are up to 89 member and regular kids now, and we had 6 new visitor kids this weekend. Huge blessing, but we also can barely keep up. So pray for Becca and Jath as they direct the ministry, and for all our workers, and for kids to know Jesus and be well cared for on Sundays. You can also pray for more volunteers to ease the burdens on Sunday mornings.

ENGAGE (10 MINUTES)

Starter Questions: Share a high and a low from the previous week.

REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

From now until Easter we're going to be looking at the latter chapters of Isaiah, particularly focusing in on the Suffering Servant. This week we're looking at Isaiah 49.

This is the first of four Servant Songs, fulfilled in Jesus Christ (cf. 49:1–13; 50:4–9; 52:13–53:12). Isaiah sprinkles references to “the servant of the Lord” throughout chs. 40–55. Often “the servant” is a title for the people as a whole (41:8–9; 42:19; 43:10; 44:1–2, 21, 26; 45:4; 48:20), but at times the servant is a specific person within Israel who is distinct from the whole, with a calling to serve Israel and beyond (49:5–6; 50:10; see notes on 52:13; 53:11).

1.) Read Isaiah 49:1-16. What stands out to you as significant, challenging, or confusing?

2.) Focus on verses 1-13. What things do you learn about the mission of the Servant? Try and brainstorm a list.

3.) What do you think it means that his “mouth was like a sharp sword” (v.2)? (Optional: see Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16).

4.) Is the Servant’s task easy and joyful? (see verse 4) What does this teach us about our ministry to others?

5.) How do people respond to the Servant at first? (see verse 7)

6.) Read verse 14 again as a group. Why do you think Israel is feeling despondent? Have you ever been in a place like that, feeling forgotten and forsaken? What is that like? How do you get out of it?

7.) How does God respond to the interruption? (see verses 15-16) What would be different about your life if you really believed God loved you like that?

8.) How does this passage help prepare you to follow Jesus in mission?

PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.