

Life Group Discussion Guide

God the Mother

May 10

LEADER NOTES

In a special Mother's Day message and conversation, Pastor Jeremy and Michelle Jernigan discussed God as a mother. The motherly qualities of God are on display throughout the Old Testament, and particularly in the books of the prophets. Although God is beyond the the confines of sex or gender categories, the motherly attributes of God are often overlooked.

In your group discussion, recognize that this is likely a new concept for some in your group. Keep your conversation from becoming a debate by reminding your group that respectful disagreement is welcome, and everyone's perspective is valid. Follow-up questions like "Is there a passage of Scripture that you have found helpful in forming your views?" or "How have you experienced that to be true in your relationship with God?" can be helpful in guiding healthy group discussion.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Isaiah 42:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ *He will say, "I have long been silent;
yes, I have restrained myself.
But now, like a woman in labor,
I will cry and groan and pant.*

Isaiah 49:14-15

¹⁴ *Yet Jerusalem^[a] says, "The Lord has deserted us;
the Lord has forgotten us."
¹⁵ "Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child?
Can she feel no love for the child she has borne?
But even if that were possible,
I would not forget you!*

Isaiah 66:13

¹³ *I will comfort you there in Jerusalem
as a mother comforts her child."*

LOOK UP

How do the passages from this week's text help you to better understand the nature of God?

LOOK AROUND

Michelle and Jeremy stated that God is "more than male and more than female". Why is it easier to place God into our categories of sex and gender?

Why do you think God is predominantly referred to as a male in most Christian contexts? In what ways has this limited our view of God?

What qualities have you seen in your mother or mothers you know that reflect the character of God?

LOOK AHEAD

From this week's text, it is clear that God sought to act as both father and mother to the people of Israel. How could God's motherly qualities help or support you in this season?

PRAYER