



UN loved
UN wanted

WEEK 2 DEVOTIONAL

RECEIVE

Take a few moments to read **Isaiah 21:10 & 41:13-14 & 41:15-16; Matthew 3:11-12**. Perhaps write them out on a piece of paper or copy and paste them into one document to reflect upon. Read these passages slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully. Hear what the Holy Spirit is trying to say to you. As you read, journal words or phrases that stand out.

Now go back and consider why those words and phrases caught your attention. Finally, take a few moments to journal what these verses imply about your identity, belonging and purpose.

REFLECT

1. In your own words, what does “*my threshed and winnowed one*” mean and imply? Would you feel insulted, misread or perhaps understood at such a salutation? How would that make you feel wanted?
2. “*I hold your right hand, ...I am the one who helps you.*” Do these phrases speak to identity or to belonging? How do you respond to having your hand held or being helped? How does your view change if it’s God holding your hand? How does this metaphor look in your normal day?
3. In Isaiah 41:14–16 the result begins to take shape. What do these verses say about your identity, belonging and purpose? Write down phrases under each of the following heading: What I Do, Who I Am With and What Is the Result.

4. Apply this picture to your life tomorrow. Where and how does “*the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel*”, become “*the one who helps you*”? And verse 16 — celebrate and grow your confidence and trust in who God is in your life.
5. Mark 3 speaks to the power of “*the One who helps you*” in a different way. This One that causes unclean spirits to fall down in fear— that One is who you belong to. What does that bring up in you?

RESPOND

6. We all belong to something. Generally, we belong where we feel wanted. Write down where you feel wanted and where you do not. Where is “*the One who helps you*” on that listing?
7. Is there a pattern? What emotions do you find? Can you identify a barrier to belonging? What is it?
8. What can you do this week to foster the security and belonging, of being wanted, that you have been given? Read your favorite part of the Scripture again. Create a prayer from it and talk to the One who has chosen you, the One who helps you, the One who has redeemed you.
9. In the video that was shown, Shep was presented a choice: candy now or a special gift tomorrow. When does your response match Shepherd’s? If this were a choice between life with God now or Heaven in the future--what if you can have both? Read Matthew 4:17.
10. As you go through your week, be mindful of where you don’t feel close to “*the One who helps you.*” Write these down so you can bring them into your prayers, your talks that night or the next morning with the One who has chosen you.

RESOURCES

As we wrap up this short two week series, allow this **message from Henri Nouwen** to carry forward who you are as God’s beloved.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 21:10 | New International Version

¹⁰ My people who are crushed on the threshing floor, I tell you what I have heard from the Lord Almighty, from the God of Israel.

Isaiah 41:13–16 | New International Version

¹³ For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.¹⁴ Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, little Israel, do not fear, for I myself will help you,” declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.¹⁵ “See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth.

You will thresh the mountains and crush them and reduce the hills to chaff.¹⁶ You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will rejoice in the Lord and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

Matthew 3:11–12 | New International Version

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 4:17 | New International Version

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”