

THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

ISAIAH: Trusting God's Bigger Plan

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him.

These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning.

Along the way, your “trust muscle” will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy.

Let's take the journey together.



Series Overview

1. Goal: Strengthen trust in Jesus through Old Testament characters.
2. Theme: Who Do You Trust?
Who Do You Follow?
3. Outcome: Build trust in relationships, make discerning decisions, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.



ISAIAH: How to Trust God's Bigger Plan

1. FOCUS → Trusting God When Everything Around You Is Shaking. In the year King Uzziah died, Isaiah encountered God's glory in the temple. Despite national instability, Isaiah anchors his hope in God's unshakable throne.

TRUST = When life feels uncertain, trust begins by fixing our eyes on God's holiness and sovereignty.

Isaiah 6:1-8.



ISAIAH: How to Trust God's Bigger Plan

2. REST ON GOD'S PROMISES → Trusting God's Promises Over Human Strength. Isaiah calls God's people to quiet confidence instead of alliances with worldly powers. "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." (Isaiah 7:9).

TRUST = Trust grows when we rely on God's promises, not our own strategies or control. Scripture: Isaiah 7:7-9; Isaiah 30:15-17.



ISAIAH: How to Trust God's Bigger Plan

3. JESUS → Trusting God's Plan of Salvation Through the Messiah.

Isaiah points to the coming Messiah who will bring peace and redemption.

TRUST = Ultimate trust rests in God's redemption story, not in present circumstances. Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53.



The 5 Essentials of Trust

1. Understanding

You trust people who 'get you.' They listen, empathize, and validate your perspective without quick fixes.

2. Motive

Trust is built when the other person's heart is for you, not just for their own interests. You feel safe when someone genuinely wants your good.

3. Ability

Good intentions aren't enough. We trust people who are competent—who have the skills, wisdom, or experience to follow through.



The 5 Essentials of Trust

4. Character

You trust those who do the right thing when it costs them. Integrity, humility, and consistency over time shape deep trust.

5. Track Record

Trust is strengthened when someone has shown up again and again—when they've proven themselves trustworthy through real-life situations.



REPAIRING BROKEN TRUST

Step 1 – Acknowledge the Breach → You cannot repair what you won't admit. Be specific about what happened and how trust was damaged. TRUST: Denial delays healing; humility begins restoration.

Step 2 – Own Your Role → Take responsibility for your part—even if it's partial. Avoid blame-shifting or minimizing. TRUST = Proverbs 28:13 — “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Step 3 – Understand the Impact → Show empathy for the pain or consequences caused. Listen fully before offering solutions. TRUST = People trust again when they feel seen, heard, and understood.



REPAIRING BROKEN TRUST

Step 4 – Make Amends → Offer a clear, specific plan to repair the harm done. Follow through on your commitments. TRUST = Trust grows when words and actions align.

Step 5 – Rebuild Through Consistency → Trust isn't rebuilt overnight; it's restored one consistent choice at a time. TRUST = Dr. Cloud calls this the “deposit effect”—small actions that slowly refill the trust account.

Step 6 – Establish Healthy Boundaries → Moving forward requires clarity on expectations, responsibilities, and limits. TRUST = Healthy relationships balance grace and truth.



Take Action!

Journal Prompts

1. Broken Trust – how have you failed? Who has failed you?
2. How is trust rebuilt?
3. How does Jesus make a difference in your ability to trust others and be trusted by others?

