Whispers of God’s Love

Get Started
If possible, prepare a recording of the song “Whisper His Name” and be prepared to play it for the group as you close. Consider making the lyrics available, too, either projected on a screen or on paper. Bookmark Isaiah 43:1 in your Bible so you can find it quickly.

Introduction
Whisper. It’s a tender word, a gentle word. Fans never whisper at the hockey rink. They cheer at full volume. Government leaders never whisper at campaign rallies. They shout to emphasize their authority and their resolve. Parents never whisper to a toddler wandering off into the street. They scream out in warning.

Whispers are tender. Whispers are gentle. Whispers communicate warmth and intimacy, closeness and caring. As teenagers, we often exchanged a whisper-giggle with our first boyfriend. As parents, we whisper to our children in church. As adult children, watching over an aging parent in the hospital, we whisper to the nurse caring for him or her.

Getting to the Heart
Whisper. It’s a tender word, a gentle word. That may be why, as I read Isaiah 43:1, I have no trouble at all imagining our Lord whispering these words. Listen, and see what you think: (read Isaiah 43:1, starting with “Fear not...”).

As a mother comforting her frightened child might whisper . . . As a husband reassuring his wife—or a wife, her husband—in a time of heartache might whisper . . . As a neighbor soothing a grieving friend might whisper . . . So our Lord consoles and reassures us:

• “Fear not!” God whispers to our hearts. Though this world can be a frightening place, though our lives may at times seem to be spinning out of control, though no life here on earth is trouble free, we need not fear! Our Creator-God sees, knows, understands, and is our ever-present help! (See Psalm 46:1.)

• “I have redeemed you!” God whispers to our hearts. Though we have often sold ourselves out to do what the Lord has forbidden, though we have often ignored opportunities to do what was right, though we must plead guilty before a holy God, we are redeemed! Jesus Christ died on our cross in our place, taking the punishment we have deserved. We are now blameless in God’s sight. Jesus’ very own righteousness belongs to us! (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.)

#WGL19DA
• “I have called you by name!” God whispers to our hearts. Though we may see ourselves as unworthy of Jesus’ love, though we may consider ourselves to be “no one special,” though we may compare ourselves with others and feel totally inadequate by the comparison, the Ruler of the universe knows our name! He knows—and loves—us deeply, personally, compassionately, fully. He has numbered every hair on our heads and, in love, concerns himself with every other specific detail of our lives. (See Matthew 10:29–31.)

• “You are mine!” God whispers to our hearts. Such fond, gentle words! Such a lovely, compassionate reassurance! What’s more, it’s true; it’s all true: “Fear not! I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine!”

And because this is true, we, in turn, can whisper back to our Savior. We can whisper his name—Jesus! We can call out to him in prayer, knowing he will hear. He will forgive. He will help. He is our loving, compassionate Savior-God!

**Taking It Home**

If you are using this message for Mother’s Day: Especially today, all of us thank God for the many ways he has used our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, Sunday school teachers, mentors, and many other women to whisper to our hearts the message of God’s love and forgiveness for us in Jesus. We are truly grateful, and we acknowledge that these special ladies have come into our lives as gifts from him!

We invite each woman as she leaves today to take one of the (name the items you intend to distribute). Let this gift remind you of the blessing you are to us here at (name your church or organization). Let it remind you to pause many times each day, to be still and listen for the whispers of God’s love—whispers from his heart to your heart, reminders of all he says, all he has promised in his Word! We love you! And more important than that, so does your heavenly Father.

If you are using this message in your women’s ministry: As you leave today, you will each receive (name the item you intend to distribute). Let it remind you to pause many times each day, to be still and listen for the whispers of God’s love—whispers from his heart to your heart, reminders of all he says, all he has promised in his Word!

(Play the recording of “Whisper His Name” now, if you are prepared to do so. Invite participants to whisper the name Jesus along with the recording if that is appropriate in your setting.)

Let’s pray: Dear Father, you are always good, always gracious, always willing to forgive and to help your children. The busyness of our lives and the fears of our hearts so often deafen us to your truth. Remind us to pause, to be still, to silence our concerns, and to listen for your Word of promise, of life and love, now and forever in Jesus our Savior. In his name we pray. Amen.

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