

*Out of Our Deep Hole*  
*Isaiah 59:1-13*

God created everything. He created human beings and gave us responsibility to manage, name, and care for creation according to \_\_\_\_\_. But the first couple decided it would be better if they followed the instructions of the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than those of the One who made it all. With that we experienced \_\_\_\_\_ from one another and \_\_\_\_\_ from God—a deep hole. Isaiah explains that the problems we face today are people’s creation, not God’s. Yet our first impulse is to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

The Bible has exposed our blaming of God for our problems with vital, foundational theological truths: “Your \_\_\_\_\_ are separating you from your God and your \_\_\_\_\_ have hidden his face from you so that He does not listen.”

Isaiah goes on to lay out a buffet of blunders that have led to the mess we find ourselves in. Murder. Lying. Speaking unfairly of others. Just as God’s words are powerful, so \_\_\_\_\_ are powerful too. With them we do most of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Unfolding before our eyes today is Isaiah’s \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ that comes because people heed the instructions of the enemy rather than those of the One who made it all.

Isaiah’s trustworthy affirmation that “Your iniquities are separating you from your God” must be counterbalanced with another Biblical truth: **1 Tim. 1:15** – Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world \_\_\_\_\_. There is a way up and out of the hole we’ve dug for ourselves. The Bible calls this way \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Repentance is deciding no longer to adhere to the instruction of the \_\_\_\_\_ but to believe God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to be true. Faith is realizing that the only way up and out of our hole is accepting the ladder God has extended down to us in our hole—a \_\_\_\_\_ ladder. Faith is trusting and following Jesus as your one and only \_\_\_\_\_ for a full, meaningful, and eternal life.