

October 19, 2025

Study Guide: Isaiah 55 – Longing for Home

Theme: The Great Invitation

Opening Thought

Isaiah 55 reveals not only God’s message, but His heart. It is an invitation—gracious, urgent, and deeply personal.

Opening Questions

- What comes to mind when you hear “invitation”?
- Have you ever received an invitation you didn’t feel worthy of?
- How do you personally define a prophet?

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, reveal Your heart to us through this chapter. Help us to hear Your invitation and respond.

1. The Audience of the Invitation (Who Is God Speaking To?)

Isaiah speaks to:

1. Hebrews in exile
2. Those far from God
3. Those near, but still laboring

Reflection Questions

- Which audience do you relate to most right now—exiled, far, or near?
- Why is it important to know *who* God is inviting before we know *what* He offers?

2. The Free Invitation (Isaiah 55:1–2)

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters... buy without money and without price.”

Symbolism of the Menu:

- **Water** – Life
- **Bread** – Sustenance
- **Milk** – Growth

- **Wine** – Joy & abundance

Heart Questions

1. Where do you feel “thirsty” in your life today?
2. What have you spent your energy or resources on that failed to satisfy?
3. Why is it hard to receive something from God without earning it?

3. The True Cost (Isaiah 53 Connection)

The “free lunch” is not free—it’s *pre-paid* by the Suffering Servant.

Reflection Questions

- Why do we resist the idea of someone else paying our debt?
- How does Isaiah 53 deepen your understanding of Isaiah 55’s invitation?
- What emotions arise when you consider Jesus’ sacrifice as the full payment?

4. The Everlasting Covenant (Isaiah 55:3–5)

“*I will make with you an everlasting covenant...*”

This covenant is built on God’s **steadfast love**, not our performance.

Discussion Questions

- How would your spiritual life change if you truly believed God’s love was unchanging?
- Do you ever feel God’s promises could be revoked? Why?
- What does “covenant relationship” with God look like in everyday life?

5. The Call to Return (Isaiah 55:6–7)

“*Seek the Lord while He may be found...*”

God calls for turning—not to punishment, but to compassion.

Deep Questions

- What does it practically mean to “seek the Lord”?
- What specific thoughts or habits do you need to forsake?
- Do you struggle to believe God *abundantly pardons* you? Why?

6. God's Ways vs. Our Ways (Isaiah 55:8–9)

“My thoughts are not your thoughts...”

Reflection & Challenge

- When have you been frustrated that God didn't act as you expected?
- How does this passage challenge your sense of control?
- Can you trust a God you do not fully understand?

7. The Power of God's Word (Isaiah 55:10–11)

“My word... shall not return to Me empty.”

Discussion Questions

- Have you seen God's Word accomplish change in your life?
- Do you believe God's promises are as reliable as the rain? Why or why not?
- What word from God do you need to cling to right now?

8. The Joyful Promise (Isaiah 55:12–13)

Creation rejoices, thorns become trees, exile turns to joy.

Hope-Filled Questions

- Where do you long to see transformation—thorns to cypress—in your life?
- How do you picture the joy of being truly “led forth in peace”?
- What do these images tell us about God's desire for His people?

9. Personal Application – Responding to the Invitation

God Says Our Response

Come Stop striving—receive grace.

Listen Open your heart to His Word.

Seek Pursue His presence.

Return Repent and trust His pardon.

Rejoice Walk in future hope.

Personal Reflection Questions

- What is your response to His invitation today?
- What needs to change in your life to fully “come to the waters”?
- Who in your life needs to hear this same invitation?