

## Isaiah 55 Discussion Guide

### Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### Read Scripture

Read all of Isaiah chapters 55 together.

### Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

HEAR stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

### Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

### Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

**Open:** What are some common ways that humanity seeks to satisfy our deepest longings?

**Context:** "Having told about the Lord's Suffering Servant (see 52:13-53:12) who will take the punishment for his people's sin, Isaiah celebrates the grace those people enjoy: God's compassion, his peace, and his unshakable covenant with them in which he is their loving God...Do you feel the urgency of Isaiah 55's invitation? Thirteen times God calls on us to do something: Come. Come. Come. Come. Listen. Delight. Incline your ear. Come. Hear. Seek. Call. Forsake. Return. The invitation is urgent, but at the same time it is joyful. (Jonathan Gibson)

### Study:

- 1) The Lord cries out to "*all you who are thirsty*" and to "*you who have no money*" (55:1). Whom does He mean?
- 2) He invites them to "*come to the waters,*" to "*buy wine and milk*" (symbols of what is pleasant and nourishing), and to dine on "*the richest of fare*" (55:1-2). What is He really offering?
- 3) Why does He invite the people to buy good things "*without money and without cost*" (55:1)? What point is He making?

- 4) “Listen, listen,” He implores (55:2), giving reasons why the thirsty and impoverished should listen, come, buy, and eat. How do modern people spend their money and labor on “*what is not bread*” and “*what does not satisfy*”?
- 5) In 55:6-9, God addresses the poor and thirsty from another perspective. He calls them “*wicked*” and “*unrighteous*.” Who are the thirsty, poor, wicked, unrighteous ones in your day whom the Lord is calling?
- 6) What did our salvation cost Jesus, and why did it cost Him that (see 53:5-9)? Do we have to “do” or “give” anything to obtain this gift from Jesus? If so, how is what we give different from work to earn salvation?
- 7) These people need to “*seek*” and “*call on*” the Lord “*while he may be found*” and “*is near*” (55:6). Why is there a time limit to this call?

The Lord invites the poor to buy without cost, but 55:7-9 describes a cost: repentance. Why is it necessary to forsake one’s wicked “*ways*” and “*thoughts*” before one can turn to the Lord and be pardoned (55:7-9)?

- 8) God promises liberation, joy, peace, and abundance for those who seek Him while He may be found (see 55:12-13). How do we know that God’s promises are trustworthy and true (see 55:10-11)?

**Apply:**

- 1) How does 55:1-13 make you want to respond to God? Why?
- 2) What does it mean to “*seek*” and “*call on*” (55:6) the Lord? How do you do these things?
- 3) Where besides God do you tend to look for satisfaction? What assurances from God from this chapter might help you to turn to Him instead?
- 4) Forsaking your own ways and returning to God can feel hard, like you are losing your very self (the Bible calls it death to self). How forsaking your own ways and turning to Him been joyful and satisfying to you in the past? How might this help you to turn to Him now?
- 5) How could you show the same attitude toward the thirsty and wicked that God shows in 55:1-9?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God the He truly is the only One who satisfies His people.
- Take time to thank God that He’s committed to satisfying us with Himself even when we wander.
- Take time to pray and ask Him to give you a thirst for Him, a humble and yielded heart, and increasing confidence in His Word.
- Ask Jesus to help you believe and enjoy the fact that He is NOT like us!
- Ask God to give you increasing trust that He loves and delights to give you all that is good.
- Ask God for opportunities to share how God alone has satisfied your deepest longings.

Note: most questions taken from Jonathan Gibson’s, *Isaiah: Good News for the Wayward and Wandering*, and *Isaiah: Lifechange Book 18* by Navigator’s Press.