Week 3 - Ask and You Shall Receive

Theme: God's way is far beyond us, but it is not completely hidden from us.

Study Focus - Isaiah 55:6-13

Catechism Corner - Belgic Confession, Article 1
We all believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that there is a single and simple spiritual being, whom we call God— eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just, and good, and the overflowing source of all good.

Additional Information
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TzdEPuqgQg

Hermeneutics: How We Read the Bible
In Biblical Hermeneutics, the connective word "for" functions as a logical marker that introduces a reason, justification, or causal explanation for a preceding statement.
When analyzing a text (exegesis), tracking the word "for" reveals the internal logic and progression of an author's argument.

> Key Functions of "For" in Textual Interpretation
> Introduction of Proof or Rationale: When an author makes an assertion or a command, following it with "for" indicates they are supplying the evidence or theological rationale behind why that assertion is true.
>
> Tracking Epistemic Logic: It signals a shift from a statement of fact or an imperative (a command) to the foundational premise supporting it. For instance, if a text commands an action and adds "for [reason]," the interpretation depends on linking that specific reason back to the command.
>
> Uncovering Pauline and Epistemic Arguments: In New Testament epistles (such as the writings of Paul), chains of sentences linked by repeated uses of "for" (e.g., Romans 1 or Romans 8) map out an interlocking logical and theological sequence where each "for" builds directly on the previous premise.

Interpretive Rule of Thumb
Do not treat "for" as mere filler. When encountering the word during study, ask:
What statement or command did this just precede?
What exact premise or proof does this "for" clause provide to validate that preceding statement?

Cross References
Isaiah 55:6 - Psalm 32:6, Amos 5:4
Isaiah 55:9 - Psalm 103:11
Isaiah 55:11 - Isaiah 40:8
Isaiah 55:12 - Isaiah 35:10, 48:20-21, Psalm 98:8
Isaiah 55:13 - Isaiah 35:1-2, 41:19

Study Questions
Head - What Does God's Word Say

1. Read Isaiah 55:6-13. Who is the immediate audience of the text?
2. Who should seek the LORD and why should they seek him?
3. What reason does God give for his compassion and pardon for the wicked?(See note: Hermeneutics (how we read the Bible))
4. Our text draws a parallel between the rain and snow, and God's word. In your own words, explain how the rain and snow are like God's word.
5. What will God's word accomplish according to our text?

Heart - What is God's Heart?

1. According to verses 8-9, God's thoughts and ways are so far beyond us that we could never comprehend them. Given that God is so far from our ways, what hope do we have in ever establishing a relationship with him?
2. What is God's desire for the wicked and unrighteous? Do we have that same heart for the lost in our midst?
3. What is God's long-term plan for his people in our text? What's God's plan for us?

Hands - What is God Calling Us to Do?

1. Verse 6 commands us to "seek the Lord while he may be found." What current distractions or priorities are keeping you away from God, and how can you create space for him this week?
2. God's ways and thoughts are above our own, which means weway may not fully understand what God is doing or has done. What theological doctrine, ethical teaching, or Biblical event do you struggle to understand? How can your Life Group help you come to a better understanding?
3. Do you feel "led forth in peace" with the mountains singing and the trees clapping their hands as the Lord desires for his people (verse 12)? If not, why not, and how can your LifeLIfe Group pray for you?