

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Advent*

These questions are for the **December 19, 2021**, sermon, "The Promised Gift, Part 4." Please read the sermon passage (Isaiah 55:1-13) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER GOD'S PROMISED GIFT OF THE MESSIAH, NOTE . . .

1. The first invitation: "Come." (1-5)
  - a. The invitation to come is emphasized through repetition: "come, come."
    - i. Come and drink all you who are thirsty.
      1. There are many destructive and unsatisfying places from which to drink.
      2. But the Messiah will permanently and eternally satisfy your thirst.
      3. The invitation is extended to "all." Everyone is instructed to come.
    - ii. Buy without money.
      1. This is a word picture for grace. Grace to the whole world.
      2. Salvation / peace with God, the most valuable resource, is not for sale.
  - b. Note the emphasis on the ear, as we are invited to "listen."
    - i. Listen closely and you will be astounded, through grace alone, God makes us a promise, an everlasting covenant.
    - ii. God's grace is extended to all the nations of the earth.
2. The second invitation: "Seek." (6-13)
  - a. Come now and look for, search for Jesus, while he can be found.
    - i. Seeing Jesus is a gift of God's grace. Don't take it for granted.
    - ii. Believers should thank God that we see him clearly.
  - b. God's ways are completely above and beyond us. We cannot see his "Why."
    - i. Yet God will accomplish exactly what he sets out to accomplish.
    - ii. His Word is strong and powerful.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God instructs the thirsty to come to him and drink. In what ways have you learned to drink from Jesus, the spring of life? In what ways has he completely satisfied you?
2. Based on #1, above: To keep the analogy going, we must drink many times every day. Sometimes big gulps, and other times ounces of coffee. Talk about the big gulps and the trickles of daily drinks of Jesus.
3. Based on #1, above: We are invited to experience complete grace, God's gift to us, when we are instructed to receive the most valuable thing in the world (friendship with God) without any money. Describe how you are learning to treasure this friendship with God higher than any other possession. Think about losing any other treasured possession. Is Jesus first?
4. Based on #3, above: Because we cannot lose Jesus, and he is guaranteed by God's everlasting covenant, we might begin to take him for granted. But we are instructed to "seek" him, even though we cannot lose him. Talk about this tension in your heart and mind. How can you better "seek," or "look for" or "search for" or "prioritize" or "desire" Jesus Christ?