

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Isaiah 55:1-11 & 2 Timothy 3:1-17. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? What really strikes you in these verses?
2. What is at the heart of the invitation in vss. 1 & 3? What is the promise held out for those who seek, call, & turn back to the Lord...who respond to his invitation?
3. Why would someone turn down what the Lord offers in 55:1-7, in exchange for things that don't satisfy?
4. What is repentance? Why is it essential to the Christian life? How do you see repentance as an invitation from God, rather than a demand, here in these verses?
5. How are vss 8-9 connected to vss 10-11? How do the attributes of God in 8-9 lead to the assurance in 10-11? Now read verses 12-13. What is the ultimate result of God's word? How would you translate this image from nature into a result in human life?
6. How is Jesus, in John 6:35-51, offering himself as the fulfillment of Is 55:1-11?
7. How is Paul's warning to Timothy (vss 1-5) repeatedly fulfilled throughout history? (give examples from your perspective) What dangers does Paul describe as ever-present in our world? How do you defend against those?
8. What does Paul offer as a contrast to the falsehood & dangerous fakery of the world? Could you make that same offer? Explain.
9. How do you read vss 12-13 in the context of Paul's argument here? How is the contrast in vss 14-17 an encouragement as well as a guide for our lives in Christ?
10. Some translations of vss 16-17 note that Scripture is useful for "*teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness, & equipping for every good work.*" When was the last time you allowed the Bible to "rebuke or correct" your life? Have you ever spent time allowing Scripture to help you do that with another believer? Explain your answers.
11. What are the implications of vs 16? How would your approach to the Bible change if you fully took on board the truth that it is God's direct word to you as part of his body here on earth in his mission to the people in your circle of acquaintance & influence?

Living Water Fellowship

13th Sunday in Pentecost – 4th September 2022

Happy Father's Day!

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD (MATT BOSWELL) CCLI 384660*

SONG: *Cornerstone*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Isaiah 55:1-11

¹"Is anyone thirsty? Come & drink—even if you have no money!
Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free!

²Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?
Why work for food that does you no good?

Listen to me, & you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food.

³"Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, & you will find life.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.

⁴See how I used him to display my power among the peoples.

I made him a leader among the nations.⁵You also will command nations you do not know,
& peoples unknown to you will come running to obey,
because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious."

⁶Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked change their ways & banish the very thought of doing wrong.
Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them.

Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

⁸"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways
& my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

¹⁰"The rain & snow come down from the heavens & stay on the ground to water the earth.
They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer & bread for the hungry.

¹¹It is the same with my word. I send it out, & it always produces fruit.
It will accomplish all I want it to, & it will prosper everywhere I send it.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

⁹You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. ²For people will love only themselves & their money. They will be boastful & proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, & ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. ³They will be unloving & unforgiving; they will slander others & have no self-control. They will be cruel & hate what is good. ⁴They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, & love pleasure rather than God. ⁵They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

⁶They are the kind who work their way into people's homes & win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin & controlled by various desires.

⁷(Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)

⁸These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes & Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds & a counterfeit faith. ⁹But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes & Jambres.

¹⁰But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, & how I live, & what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, & my endurance. ¹¹You know how much persecution & suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, & Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. ¹²Yes, & everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil people & impostors will flourish. They will deceive others & will themselves be deceived.

¹⁴But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, & they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God & is useful to teach us what is true & to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong & teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare & equip his people to do every good work.

FAITH CHAT:

1. Who was the "greatest" influence on your life once you moved out of your parents' home? Do they still have that role in your life?
2. How do the Scriptures shape & influence your view of events in your life & the world?

THE MESSAGE: *SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE: SCRIPTURE IN A WORLD OF OPINION*

OFFERING SONG: *Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: GOOD & GRACIOUS KING (CityAlight) CCLI 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
The Father will make his word flourish in your life
for Christ's sake. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Grace*

SHOW HIS LOVE