

DON'T HOLD BACK (PART 1)

ISAIAH 54:1-5, ISAIAH 55:1-11

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – FEBRUARY 26, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 54:1-6a ESV

*“Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married,” says the LORD.*

*2 “Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.*

*3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.*

*4 “Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.*

*5 For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.*

6 For the LORD has called you...

Isaiah 55:1-11 ESV

*“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

*2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

*3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,*

my steadfast, sure love for David.

*4 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.*

*5 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.*

*6 “Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;*

*7 let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.*

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

*10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Is there ever a time when you feel like you might have missed out on an opportunity (I.e. Education, relational, recreational, career, etc.) because, for one reason or another, you ‘held back’ in some way?

SERMON RECAP

1. Don't hold back from becoming the bride you are made to be.
2. Don't hold back from seeking the God you are made to seek.

Seek the Lord:

- For salvation.
- Through confession of sin.
- In submission to His ways.
- For help for ourselves and others.
- In praise and thanksgiving.
- Alone or with someone else or with a small group.
- Sitting, standing, kneeling, lying prostrate, lifting hands, etc.
- At your seat, at the front, or somewhere else.
- Silently or aloud.
- Praying or singing.

LEADER NOTES

Due to the specific nature of this sermon, we'd like to ask that each Church Group take extended time to consider how we should apply this sermon in ways the Spirit leads that would be appropriate for your Church Group. This guide will have fewer discussion questions than most weeks to allow ample time for the group to pray, process, and seek God together. discussion questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Isaiah 54:1-5 and Isaiah 55:1-11 aloud as a group.

1. What does Isaiah 55:1-3 tell us that we should do when we want satisfaction for our souls? What are some ways that we can "come" to God?
2. What do these passages tell us God has in store for those who come to God, obey His Word, live fully for Him, and don't hold back (Isaiah 55: 3, Isaiah 55:11-12)?
3. What might it mean to seek God and call upon Him while He is near (Isaiah 55:6)?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply these passage to our lives?

During this sermon, we were invited to "seek God" together. Some of us chose to participate and some may have chosen to observe while others sought God. Yet, we know that there is not a person in our Church Groups who don't need to seek God. Church Group Leaders, please offer your group an opportunity to process Sunday's sermon together. Consider the following:

1. In what area(s) do you personally need to seek God this very day?
 - For salvation.
 - Through confession of sin.
 - In submission to His ways.
 - For help for ourselves and others.
 - In praise and thanksgiving.
2. What might keep you from seeking God in some of the different forms or ways we see exemplified in Scripture?
 - Alone or with someone else or with a small group.
 - Sitting, standing, kneeling, lying prostrate, lifting hands, etc.
 - Silently or aloud.
 - Praying or singing.
3. Take some extended time for unrushed prayer as a Church Group. Seek Him corporately. You might work through the acronym PRAY as a Church Group.
 - **Praise.** Don't hold back from praising our King. Allow time for your group members to share Scriptures and one sentence prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving to God (Psalm 96:1, Psalm 100:4, Psalm 138:1).
 - **Repent.** Don't hold back from confessing sin today. Confess that we want God's ways to be our ways, and God's thoughts to be our thoughts. Allow time for your group share Scripture passages and one sentence prayers of confession (James 5:16, 1 John 1:9).
 - **Ask.** Don't hold back from boldly coming before the Father to ask for what we need. Allow time for your group to share Scripture passages and one sentence prayers of intercession for others and prayers asking our good Father for His help (1 John 5:15).
 - **Yield.** Don't hold back from boldly yielding our lives and actions to God. Allow time for your group share Scripture and one sentence prayers as we yield to God's reign in our lives (John 14:15).