

**Graduation Sunday 2020**

*"Seek the Lord While He May Be Found"*

Isaiah 55:1-13

Sunday, May 17, 2020

*"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he  
is near;  
Isaiah 55:6 (ESV)*

**Sermon Proposition**

Anyone who would seek the Lord must respond to His invitation.

**0) Context of Isaiah 55**

*What is a "literary unfolding" and how does it work in Isaiah?*

**1) The Invitation: To Come, To Drink, To Listen and Hear (v. 1-5)**

**2) The Exhortation: To Seek the Lord While He May Be Found (v 6-7)**

*But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"  
Genesis 3:9 (NIV)*

**3) Doxology: Praise God for His Attributes (v. 8-11)**

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my  
ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your  
thoughts."  
Isaiah 55:9 (NIV)*

**4) Rejoicing: Celebrating What God has Done with all Creation (v. 12-13)**

*You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the  
mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and  
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
Isaiah 55:12 (NIV)*

## Graduation Sunday 2020

Discussion Guide

"Seek the Lord While He May Be Found"

Isaiah 55:1-13

### Read It

Read Isaiah 55:1-13 together aloud.

*<sup>1</sup> "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. <sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. <sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead*

*of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."*

### Open It

When have you searched frantically or diligently?

How does a time crunch or urgency change the way you approach searching for something?

### Consider It

What are some things that people use to satisfy their desires? What are your personal temptations, and what is the appeal that they offer?

Why do you think there is the inclusion of the phrase "while He may be found" in verse 6?

What insight does verse 7 give us into seeking the Lord?

Tell about a time when you hid from the Lord rather than seeking. Why did you hide?

How does verse 7 contrast the thoughts of man with the thoughts and ways of God in verses 8-9?

How would you answer a skeptic who says that this verse is a cop-out by saying that we cannot understand God's ways and we should just believe and worship?

If God's word always accomplishes the purpose for which God sent it, how do you explain people who hear God's Word and do not believe in Him?

### Live It

How can you reach out to others and offer this invitation while in quarantine? How does the urgency of response in verse 6 instruct our urgency to pour out the water of God's Word?

How can you rejoice in God's promises in verses 12-13?