

GOD IS: TRUSTING GOD IN TURBULENT TIMES (STUDY GUIDE)

LESSON #12: COME, EVERYONE WHO THIRSTS (ISAIAH 54:1-55:13)

These materials have been prepared in order to guide you through the Scripture texts that we will be studying on Sunday mornings during our Fall sermon series on Isaiah 40-55. Each lesson includes an introduction, questions, a text for memorization, and a prayer of response. Consider using this Study Guide during your morning quiet time with the Lord. You can write your responses and your prayers in a journal. Regardless of how you use this guide, may God bless you as you dig deep into this fabulous book of Isaiah!

STEP 1: CONSIDER

These last two chapters in this second major section of Isaiah (Chapters 40-55) call Israel to respond to the provision of salvation. Chapter 54 describes the radical effects that salvation will have on God's people; Chapter 55 calls the people to respond without hesitation to this gracious gift. Through the Servant of the Lord, God will eliminate the barrier of sin and open the possibility of righteousness in him. Because God is relentless in love and faithfulness, the 'barren and rejected wife' will be blessed by the overwhelming faithfulness of her husband, and children will be multiplied to her. Indeed, God can be trusted!

STEP 2: READ

Read Isaiah 54:1-55:13.

STEP 3: REFLECT

1. Early in Chapter 54, the Jews are called to break forth in praise. Look at the following verses and write down the particular reasons mentioned why they are responding as they do:

Verse	Command to the people	Write the reasons mentioned
54:1	Sing, O barren one	For
54:2-3	Enlarge the place of your tents	For
54:4	Fear not	For

2. In 54:5 there six terms used to describe God. List each and provide a brief statement of its significance:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. The word 'covenant' in 54:10 presupposes terms of a relationship. How is it possible for God to enter into this 'covenant of peace' with his people? (Remember Chapters 52-53!)

4. In 54:11-17, the imagery shifts from a reconciled wife to a rebuilt city. Use the following table to take note of the characteristics of this rebuilt city:

Verses	The rebuilt city	How is the city described?
54:11-12	Beauty of the city	
54:13-14	Inhabitants of the city	
54:15-17	Security of the city	

5. Chapter 55 calls Israel to receive the benefits of what God has accomplished in their salvation. Verses 1-7 are loaded with commands. Make a list of these commands.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. If 55:1-7 are loaded with commands, 55:8-13 are loaded with reasons to obey! What motivations for responding confidently to God's salvation are found in these verses?

STEP 4: MEMORIZE

Isaiah 55:6. (If you are ambitious, memorize 55:6-13!)

STEP 5: PRAY

Father, our understanding of your ways is so tremendously limited. You are able to do abundantly more than we could ever ask or think. To trust you is to leave the terms of resolution in your hands. Give me a heart to believe that you are absolutely trustworthy and that this journey of faith is leading in the direction of your glory and my good. I praise you for the covenant of peace established through the ministry of your Servant, our Lord Jesus. It is in his name I pray, Amen.