

Connect to L.I.F.E.

God's Invitation to the World

Isaiah 55:1-56:8

L.I.F.E. is an acronym that speaks of connecting to the Lord, Instruction, Family Fellowship, and Evangelism

All around us churches are working hard to make themselves new. But, maybe the church should not do something "new."

The church has a message that the world needs to hear.

1. The Invitation to Come to the Lord

1 "Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the water; and you without silver, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without silver and without cost! 2 Why do you spend silver on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and you will enjoy the choicest of foods.

Isaiah 55:1–2

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3 Pay attention and come to me; listen, so that you will live. I will make a permanent covenant with you on the basis of the faithful kindnesses of David. 4 Since I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples, 5 so you will summon a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you will run to you. For the Lord your God, even the Holy One of Israel, has glorified you.”

Isaiah 55:3–5

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God does not call only the religious and righteous to come. He calls everyone, including the ungodly and unrighteous

10 Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water."

John 4:10

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37 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him."

John 7:37–38

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35 "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.

John 6:35

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This fact that God's water and food are absolutely free suggests several three important points:

First, God's salvation is a gift.

23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23–24

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23 For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

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8 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—9 not from works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8–9

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Second, the LORD cares deeply for us.

Third, the price of salvation was extremely costly to God.

16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

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8 But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

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16 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16

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2 Why do you spend silver on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and you will enjoy the choicest of foods.

Isaiah 55:2

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2. The invitation to seek the LORD

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call to him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, so he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will freely forgive. 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways." This is the Lord's declaration. 9 "For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:6–9

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10 For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, 11 so my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do." 12 You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided; the mountains and the hills will break into singing before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thornbush, a cypress will come up, and instead of the brier, a myrtle will come up; this will stand as a monument for the Lord, an everlasting sign that will not be destroyed.

Isaiah 55:10–13

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This second invitation includes a warning: people can wait too long.

12 Watch out, brothers and sisters, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.

Hebrews 3:12–13

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7 Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, so he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will freely forgive.

Isaiah 55:7

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It is amazing to realize that no matter how much wickedness people commit, the LORD still reaches out to them, encouraging them to seek Him

When people truly repent, the LORD has mercy upon them and forgives their sins. They are freely, abundantly pardoned.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

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8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the Lord’s declaration. 9 “For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8–9

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Although Scripture does not give us complete answers to all questions, it does give us enough information to enable us to trust God and to know right from wrong.

32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may have mercy on all. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? 35 And who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid? 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:32–36

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10 For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, 11 so my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.”

Isaiah 55:10–11

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God's Holy Word is the point of contact between Him and the people of earth.

12 You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided; the mountains and the hills will break into singing before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thornbush, a cypress will come up, and instead of the brier, a myrtle will come up; this will stand as a monument for the Lord, an everlasting sign that will not be destroyed.

Isaiah 55:12–13

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When God set His people free from the Babylonian captivity, He made three wonderful promises to them, promises that are applicable to believers of all generations:

First, people who were set free—
repentant sinners—would live in joy
and peace

27 "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful.

John 14:27

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17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

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Second, The repentant sinners were given the promise of a great future, a time when the earth would be transformed, made perfect

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Revelation 21:1

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3 and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:3–5

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Third, the transformation of the universe will be for the purpose of honoring the LORD

3 Proclaim the Lord's greatness
with me; let us exalt his name
together.

Psalm 34:3

CSB

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Psalm 29:2

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5 God, be exalted above the heavens; let your glory be over the whole earth.

Psalm 57:5

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Conclusion



EARNED

NEVER GIVEN