

EXODUS HEARTS TOWARD GOD-8

March 1, 2009 - Isaiah 55

Your discussion will focus on God's invitation to depart from old ways and to enter a life of peace and joy.

Open - Leaving

Have you ever been somewhere that you just couldn't wait to leave, or needed to leave but could not figure out a graceful way of doing so?

Have you ever been somewhere that you knew you should leave but you didn't really want to? Did you later feel regretful or guilty?

Bible Discussion - Isaiah 55

Review the setting - God has reassured the people of his power and presence, and now he calls for a response.

As God calls his people to respond to him, what does he offer? Why is it hard for us to understand God's ways?

As God calls his people to respond to him, what does he demand? From what are his people to depart?

Taking It Home

Discuss this quote from C.S. Lewis:

"Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea, we are far too easily pleased." - "The Weight of Glory"

Why do people have a hard time leaving sin behind?

How can we better imagine what God has in store for us (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9)?

What do you need to leave behind to more fully experience the peace and joy of God?

How can we pray for you this evening?

*The discussion questions loosely follow Greg's Sunday message with the same date, and were authored by Allen Burris, preaching minister for the Mitchell Church of Christ.