BIBLE STUDY

# Table for Two

RESONATE

## Table for Two

# Divine Conversation

The King of the universe summons you into His mighty presence. You have been told that He has an important message that He desires to share with you. How would you feel? How would you respond? This week we will study that conversation, what God wants to tell the world, one person at a time.

**DAY 1 / DAY 2 / DAY 3 / DAY 4 / DAY 5**

DAY 1

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 55:3; Luke 1:26-33; John 3:1-18

The music group Queen wrote a song called "Who Wants to Live Forever"? The song always upsets me whenever I hear it. The tune is sad and dreary. But it also is wrong. We will live forever, whether we want to or not. We were created for eternity. The destination of our eternity depends upon our earthly choice of accepting or rejecting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

### Isaiah 55:3a

> 3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.

Verse 3a: The Lord Almighty is speaking here. He wants everyone to know how to experience salvation. He wants each person to accept the path that brings the soul to life. If we come close, if we listen, He will tell us exactly how eternal life can be ours.

### Isaiah 55:3b

> 3...I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

Verse 3b: The Lord had made an unconditional covenant with David, the second king of Israel. God promised to establish and sustain the Davidic dynasty by promising that a godly king, like David, would rule forever.

### Luke 1:26-33

> 26In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
>
> 29Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

**Verse 26-33:** Jesus, God Himself, was born. He is from the line of David and fulfills the covenant given to David. This covenant was originally given to one man, David. However, the verses in Isaiah open up the covenant to all people. The blessing of David having an offspring that would be the eternal king becomes a blessing to us because the Son of Man can rule over us now.

In order to be under the rule of a government, you must be under the government. For example, the citizens of Australia do not have to be concerned with obeying the laws of America for they are not in America. However, they need to follow the rules of Australia in order to receive the benefits of obeying the law. This principle is the same spiritually. Since Jesus is the eternal Ruler, we need to come under the laws of His kingdom in order to share in the benefits of being under His authority. There is only one way to become a part of this spiritual nation: you must be born into it.

### John 3:1-18

1Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

4"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit] gives birth to spirit. 7You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

9"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

10"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? 11I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

**Verse 1-18:** Belief in the Son of Man, Jesus, who was crucified on a cross for our sins, is the only way to be born again. This birth gives you citizenship into the eternal kingdom where you will live forever under the rule of the King of kings. The Lord wants everyone to be born again. This is the message He is declaring to the nations of the world so people will become a part of the spiritual nation of the universe.

DAY 1

# Up Close and Personal

Praise the Lord who has kept the covenant to David about a kingdom that will rule forever.

Explain how to be born again.

When were you born again?

How does God declare the message of salvation to the nations?

DAY 2

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 55:4; Revelation 1:5; Philippians 2:8-11

Court cases often have eye-witnesses. They tell the jury what they saw of the crime or they may be the alibi for the defendant. Either way, they share the knowledge they have in order to add to the evidence that the jury must weigh in order to reach a verdict.

Christianity is based on faith, but it is also based on evidence. Just like a jury, we come to conclusions through the testimony of witnesses instead of personal first-hand knowledge. The Lord gives His testimony about Himself through others.

## Isaiah 55:4

> 4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.

**Verse 4:** The witness is not the one in authority in the courtroom but the judge is. The witness, in this account, is also the leader of the peoples. A known person of power is testifying for the case. Important government officials are rarely called to testify unless the case is extremely important. The case in question is salvation. This is the most important decision in the universe. The Judge makes Himself the witness in order that more people will weigh the evidence in favor of salvation.

## Revelation 1:5

> 5...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

**Verse 5:** Jesus Christ is the faithful witness as well as the Judge. The All-Powerful one forfeits His right to demand us to believe in Him and instead allows us the option to believe His testimony or not. He gives us the right to choose, to weigh the evidence. At least He allows us that opportunity while we are alive on earth. One day, however, we will no longer need to weigh the evidence for we well stand before the complete proof.

## Philippians 2:8-11

> 8And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! 9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Verse 8-11:** Jesus is the Ruler of the universe because He humbled Himself to the cross. He endured the torture as payment for our sins committed against the Perfect Judge. Therefore, Jesus is eternally honored. Even if people choose to reject the evidence of Christ on earth, they will one day acknowledge Him as Lord. At that point, there will be no disputing His authority or His accomplishment of victory over sin and death.

Have you weighed the evidence of Jesus Christ? The Word of God corroborated His story. Archaeological finds and historical documents support the Word of God. The Faithful Witness has spoken through the generations to people who have believed His testimony. But that is not enough. The Faithful Witness desires to speak to you. Will you confess Him as Lord now or will you wait until you stand before the Judge?

DAY 2

# Up Close and Personal

Proclaim Jesus as Lord. Bow down if you are able.

When did you first confess Jesus as Lord?

What evidence weighed in on your decision to become a follower of Christ?

When have you pointed someone else toward the evidence proving Christ as our Savior and Lord?

DAY 3

# The Word

Today's Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13; James 1:13-17; Romans 6:23

Yesterday we discussed weighing the evidence of Jesus. We will continue this theme as we look at prophesies about Jesus which have already come true. This will build the way for tomorrow as we discuss prophesies about the near future. The hope of future prophesies finds its stability in ones already fulfilled. Below is a list of prophetic Scriptures about the Messiah and how they were fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

Tenakh/Hebrew Fulfilled Prophecy New Testament Scripture

His pre-existence

**Micah 5:2**

**John 1:1, 14**

Born of the seed of a woman

**Genesis 3:15**

**Matthew 1:18**

Of the seed of Abraham

**Genesis 12:3**

**Matthew 1:1-16**

All nations blessed by Abraham's seed

**Genesis 12:3**

**Matthew 8:5, 10**

God would provide Himself a Lamb as

**Genesis 22:8**

**John 1:29**

an offering

From the tribe of Judah

**Genesis 49:10**

**Matthew 1:1-3**

Heir to the throne of David

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

**Matthew 1:1**

Called "The mighty God, The

**Isaiah 9:6**

**Matthew 1:23**

everlasting Father"

Born in Bethlehem

**Micah 5:2**

**Matthew 2:1**

Born of a virgin

**Isaiah 7:14**

**Matthew 1:18**

His name called Immanuel, "God with

**Isaiah 7:14**

**Matthew 1:23**

us"

Declared to be the Son of God

**Psalm 2:7**

**Matthew 3:17**

His messenger before Him in spirit of

**Malachi 4:5-6**

**Luke 1:17**

Elijah

Preceded by a messenger to prepare His

**Malachi 3:1**

**Matthew 11:7-11**

way

Messenger crying "Prepare ye the way

**Isaiah 40:3**

**Matthew 3:3**

of the Lord"

Would be a Prophet of the children of

**Deuteronomy 18:15**

**Matthew 2:15**

Israel

Called out of Egypt

**Hosea 11:1**

**Matthew 2:15**

Slaughter of the children

**Jeremiah 31:15**

Matthew2:18

**Judges 13:5; Amos**

Would be a Nazarene 2:11;

**Matthew 2:23**

Lam. 4:7

Brought light to Zabulon & Nephthalm,

**Isaiah 9:1-2**

**Matthew 4:15**

Galilee of the Gentiles Presented with gifts

**Psalm 72:10**

**Matthew 2:1, 11**

**Matthew 21:42; Mark 8:31,**

Rejected by His own

**Isaiah 53:3**

12:10; Luke 9:22, 17:25

He is the stone which the builders

**Psalm 118:22-23;**

**Matthew 21:42; I Peter 2:7**

rejected which became the headstone

**Isaiah 28:16**

A stone of stumbling to Israel

**Isaiah 8:14-15**

I Peter 2:8

He entered Jerusalem as a king

**Zechariah 9:9**

**Matthew 21:5**

riding on an ass

Betrayed by a friend

**Psalms 41:9**

**John 13:21**

Sold for 30 pieces of silver

**Zechariah 11:12**

**Matthew 26:15; Luke 22:5**

The 30 pieces of silver given for the

**Zechariah 11:12**

**Matthew 27:9-10**

potter's field

The 30 pieces of silver thrown in the

**Zechariah 11:13**

**Matthew 27:5**

temple

Forsaken by His disciples

**Zechariah 13:7**

**Matthew 26:56**

Accused by false witnesses

**Psalm 35:11**

**Matthew 26:60**

Silent to accusations

**Isaiah 53:7**

**Matthew 27:14**

**Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah**

Heal blind/deaf/lame/dumb

**Matthew 11:5**

29:18

Preached to the

**Isaiah 61:1**

**Matthew 11:5**

poor/brokenhearted/captives

Came to bring a sword, not peace

**Micah 7:6**

**Matthew 10:34-35**

He bore our sickness

**Isaiah 53:4**

**Matthew 8:16-17**

Spat upon, smitten and scourged

**Isaiah 50:6, 53:5**

**Matthew 27:26, 30**

Smitten on the cheek

**Micah 5:1**

**Matthew 27:30**

Hated without a cause

**Psalm 35:19**

**Matthew 27:23**

The sacrificial lamb

**Isaiah 53:5**

**John 1:29**

**Romans 11:27/Galatians**

**Isaiah 42:6; Jeremiah**

Given for a covenant 3:17, 4:24/Hebrews 8:6, 8, 31:31-34 10; 10:16, 29; 12:24; 13:20

Would not strive or cry

**Isaiah 42:2-3**

**Mark 7:36**

People would hear not and see not

**Isaiah 6:9-10**

**Matthew 13:14-15**

People trust in traditions of men

**Isaiah 29:13**

**Matthew 15:9**

People give God lip service

**Isaiah 29:13**

**Matthew 15:8**

God delights in Him

**Isaiah 42:1**

**Matthew 3:17, 17:5**

Wounded for our sins

**Isaiah 53:5**

**John 6:51**

He bore the sins of many

**Isaiah 53:10-12**

**Mark 10:45**

Messiah not killed for Himself

**Daniel 9:26**

**Matthew 20:28**

**Isaiah 55:5, 60:3,**

65:1; Malachi 1:11; Gentiles flock to Him

**Matthew 8:10**

II Samuel 22:44-45;

**Psalm 2:7-8**

Crucified with criminals

**Isaiah 53:12**

**Matthew 27:35**

**Zechariah 12:10; Ps.**

His body was pierced

**John 20:25, 27**

22:16

Thirsty during execution

**Psalm 22:16**

**John 19:28**

Given vinegar and gall for thirst

**Psalm 69:21**

**Matthew 27:34**

Soldiers gambled for his garment

**Psalm 22:18**

**Matthew 27:35**

People mocked, "He trusted in God, let

**Psalm 22:7-8**

**Matthew 27:43**

Him deliver him!"

People sat there looking at Him

**Psalm 22:17**

**Matthew 27:36**

Cried, "My God, my God why hast thou

**Psalm 22:1**

**Matthew 27:46**

forsaken me?"

Darkness over the land

**Amos 8:9**

**Matthew 27:45**

**Psalm 34:20,**

No bones broken

**John 19:33-36**

**Numbers 9:12**

Side pierced

**Zechariah 12:10**

**John 19:34**

Buried with the rich

**Isaiah 53:9**

**Matthew 27:57, 60**

**Psalm 16:10-11;**

Resurrected from the dead

**Mark 16:6**

49:15

**Hebrews 5:5-6; 6:20; 7:15-**

Priest after the order of Melchizedek

**Psalm 110:4**

17

Ascended to right hand of God

**Psalm 68:18**

**Luke 24:51**

LORD said unto Him, "Sit thou at my

**Matt 22:44; Mark 12:36;,**

right hand, until I make thine enemies

**Psalm 110:1**

16:19; Luke 20:42-43; Acts thy footstool 2:34-35; Hebrews 1:13

His coming glory

**Malachi 3:2-3**

**Luke 3:17**

Sims, Daniel. “Tenakh/Hebrew/Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus Christ, Messiah”. October 25, 2007. <http://www.jesus-is-lord.com/messiah.htm>

These are only a few examples. There are over 300 Messianic prophesies which were written hundreds or even thousands of years before Jesus walked the earth. But God was faithful in fulfilling every one of them. He wanted the world to make no mistake who the Savior of mankind would be.

To get a feel for the probabilities involved, consider this. An author and speaker named Josh McDowell calculated the odds of Jesus fulfilling only eight of the Messianic prophecies as 1 out of 1017 (a one followed by 17 zeros). This is equivalent to covering the entire state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep, marking one of them, mixing them all up and having a blind-folded person select the marked one at random the first time.

“Prophecies fulfilled by Jesus”. 2006. October 25, 2007.<http://www.bprc.org/topics/fulfill.html>

Weigh the evidence. Jesus is Who He claimed to be. He is the Savior and Lord. Make no mistake. Just as He fulfilled prophesy about His time on earth, He will fulfill prophesy about His return!

DAY 3

# Up Close and Personal

Praise the Lord who keeps His Word.

What do you think are the purposes of prophesy?

What are your thoughts about prophesies that were fulfilled?

How does this help you as you consider the future?

DAY 4

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Isaiah 55:5, 2:2-4; 9:7; Psalm 122:6; Revelation 22:20

The nation of Israel is the center of the world. Media is focused on it; nations fight over it; controversy has reigned in it. The country itself is only "290 miles in length from north to south and some 85 miles across at its widest point".

"Looking at Israel-The Land". 2003. Israel Philatelic Service. October 25, 2007. <http://www.mfa.gov .il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Looking+at+Israel/Looking+at+Israel-+The+Land.htm>

Why would the world be interested in a plot of land barely larger than New Jersey? The reason for such interest is that the Lord Himself has declared the land His. One day He will rule again from Jerusalem. In the meantime, the enemy wants to wreak havoc on the people of God, for the Jews are the Lord's chosen people.

## Deuteronomy 7:6-9

> 6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.
>
> 7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

**Verse 6-9:** The Lord chose the Israelites to be His people. They will always be His people. One day He will return to Israel and reign from Jerusalem. All the nations of the earth will be under the divine rule of Jesus. Soon this tiny nation will be restored as the pride of the world. It will no longer live under threat from the enemy because the world will want to be its ally.

## Isaiah 55:5

> 5 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."

**Verse 5:** Israel has had generations of difficulty. But this will not always be the case. Peace will one day reign and the dignity of this nation will be restored. All opposition will be removed and Israel will be the focal point for government and for spiritual leading.

### Isaiah 2:2-4

> 2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.
>
> 3 Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
>
> 4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

**Verse 2-4:** Imagine a world where the top news story is about kind deeds people did for one another. The reporters would no longer report on war but on spiritual festivals around the globe.

### Isaiah 9:7

> 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**Verse 21-23:** A perfect rule that will never end. We never see Him voted out of office. We do not have to worry about the election of corrupt officials. We will never question His judgment. Everything will be as it should be; all of us will finally live in peace.

But that day has not come, yet. Right now we are in the midst of wars, problems, chaos. Israel is constantly fighting to keep ownership of its own land. But we can side with our friends in Israel, the people the Lord chose to call His own.

### Psalm 122:6

> 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.

**Verse 6:** When we are praying for the peace of Jerusalem, we are praying for the return of Christ. For Jerusalem will not stay in lasting peace until the Lord’s return. When that day is, only God knows, but we can long for it and pray for it until then.

### Revelation 22:20

> 20He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

DAY 4

# Up Close and Personal

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

How does knowing the future of Christ's reign help us now?

What can you do to remind yourself to pray for Israel?

DAY 5

# The Word

Today’s Scripture: Isaiah 55:3-5; Proverbs 16:25; Revelation 21:1-7

The nation of Israel is a testimony of God’s faithfulness:

Quote from Charles Krauthammer - The Weekly Standard, May 11, 1998

"Israel is the very embodiment of Jewish continuity: It is the only nation on earth that inhabits the same land, bears the same name, speaks the same language, and worships the same God that it did 3,000 years ago. You dig the soil and you find pottery from Davidic times, coins from Bar Kokhba, and 2,000-year-old scrolls written in a script remarkably like the one that today advertises ice cream at the corner candy store."

“Ingathering of the Israelites.” Israel Science and Technology Directory. 1999-2007. October 25, 2007. <http://www.science.co.il/Israel-history.asp>

The Lord said that the Jews would remain and they have. Despite wars and attempted genocides the nation is a testimony to the fact that the Word of God is true and stands firm forever. With that truth let us review the main passage from the week:

## Isaiah 55:3-5

> 3 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.
>
> 4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.
>
> 5 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."

**Verse 3-5:** The Lord has promised us that if we listen to Him and come to Him that our souls will live. His Word is true. This is not a promise for the “super spiritual” but for everyone. Each person can come to Him and experience this. The choice is ours. We can attempt to go through life in our own way, but that only leads to death.

## Proverbs 16:25

> 25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

**Verse 25:** Our way leads to death; the choices that seem right to us are not right. They may look good for now but in the end they come to nothing. The Lord alone knows the pathway to eternal life. But He is not trying to hide the way from us. He wants everyone to be saved. But He will not force it upon anyone.

A glorious future awaits those who choose the Lord if we will accept Him now.

### Revelation 21:1-7

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

**Verse 1-7:** God will once again dwell with us. He did so before, as a man living in Israel who taught the ways of God and died for the sin of man. Next time Jesus returns to earth, He will reign as King. For those of us who believe His Word as true, we will be with Him.

DAY 5

# Up Close and Personal

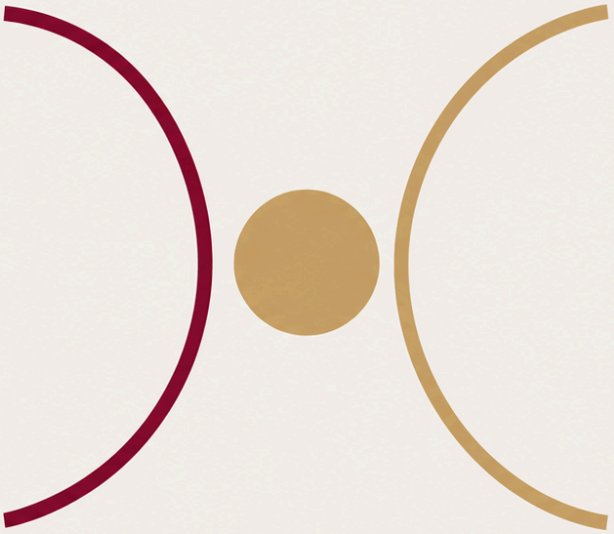
Praise the King who will reign forevermore.

How does the fact the nation of Israel is still around encourage your belief in the Word?

Since the Word is true, what part of it do you need to trust in today?

BIBLE STUDY

# Table for Two



RESONATE

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# The Divine Invitation

The Word sometimes refers to spiritual matters like it is food. God invites us to come and feast at His spiritual table. He longs for us to stop hurting ourselves by wasting our time, energy, and resources on the temporal things of life. He offers us the complete satisfaction found in Him alone. But we have to choose to accept His divine invitation.

**DAY 1 / DAY 2 / DAY 3 / DAY 4 / DAY 5**

DAY 1

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 55:1; Galatians 5:16-26

Children are controlled by their desires. When they are hungry, they will let you know. When they are thirsty, they will voice their complaint. By the time one of my nieces was 14 months old she would say "I hungry" and then would look at you until you met her need.

But as adults, we sometimes squelch our need. We pass on meals because of our busy schedules. Or when we do eat a meal it is on the go and lacking in nutritional value. We are often left unsatisfied and longing for a real meal. "I hungry."

The spiritual part in us also needs to be filled. We may be passing on "spiritual meals" because we are too busy. Or we may take in "a little Bible" during the week or just on weekends, enough to leave us unsatisfied and our spirits longing for more. The Lord wants to spiritually fill us. All we have to do is respond to His invitation.

### Isaiah 55:1

> 1 "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.

**Verse 1:** The God of the universe is calling for us to come to Him. I think Charles Spurgeon, one of the greatest preachers from the nineteenth century, stated it best. To understand this quote, you will need to add the word "ho" (modern day translation may be "Hey") before Isaiah 55:1 to get the full impact:

"Ho! - this is the gospel note; a short, significant appeal, urging you to be wise enough to attend to your own interests. Oh, the condescension of God! That he should, as it were, become a beggar to his own creature, and stoop from the magnificence of his glory to cry, 'Ho!' to foolish and ungrateful men!" (Spurgeon)

Guzik, David. "David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible." 2001-2007. 18 October 2007. <http://www.studylight.org/com/guz/view.cgi?book=isa&chapter=055> Spurgeon is stating that the Lord Almighty is begging us to come to Him. We need Him; He does not need us. Yet, He is willing to lower Himself to reach us. Are you moved by that? The Ruler of the Universe is calling to us yet, we often ignore His cries. We go through our lives without acknowledging our need for Him but in so doing we are missing what we truly need, and not only need but what we want. God satisfies our every want. Everything you think will make you happy is only a shadow of the fullness of joy in Christ. But we run after everything that leaves us starving and thirsty. And the Lord, whom we have ignored, yells out to everyone

“Come!”

Physical hunger and thirst are indicators of our bodies needs. We can ignore the signs for awhile but if we continue to ignore them, we will suffer effects from the neglect of our bodies. Spiritual hunger and thirst occurs when the Spirit within us tells us we need more of the Lord. If we do not respond, we will undergo detrimental spiritual consequences.

### Galatians 5:16-26

16So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**Verse 16-26:** Reread the fruits of the Spirit in verses 22-23. These are the signs of a life that is spiritually full. If any one is missing, then we need to listen and respond to God’s invitation to “Come”. He is willing to give us everything we need to live a life that is utterly fulfilling. Upon the review of the list, what is your spirit saying? Are you spiritually full? Or do you need to tell the Lord, “I hungry”?

DAY 1

# Up Close and Personal

Speak to the Lord about your spiritual need. Listen to His willingness to fill you.

How are you regularly “feeding” on the Word of God?

What are your thoughts on the quote by Charles Spurgeon?

Consider the list of the “fruits of the Spirit” found in Galatians 5:22-23. What “fruit” do you need from the Lord?

DAY 2

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-2

During college I mainly lived on water, Ramen noodles, and popcorn. It was all I could afford. If anyone volunteered to cook dinner for me, I would arrive early to her house! I would never miss out on such a luxury. I still remember a friend who made me homemade guacamole. It was one of the food highlights of my college years.

Most people would not have guacamole as their luxury food. This would be especially true in Israel. A better description for them would be wine and milk.

## Isaiah 55:1

> 1 "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.

**Verse 1:** My NIV text note describes the wine and milk as "symbols of abundance, enjoyment, and nourishment." In other words, the Lord desires to meet more than just our basic needs. He wants us to be luxuriously supplied. I once again will defer to Charles Spurgeon on the matter:

"You are not permitted to drink freely of water, and then to purchase wine. You are not invited to come and eat freely that which is good, and then to spend your labor for that which is fat. No, the richest dainties of God's house are as free as the bread he gives to hungry souls." (Spurgeon)

Guzik, David. "David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible." 2001-2007. 18 October 2007. <http://www.studylight.org/com/guz/view.cgi?book=isa&chapter=055> Everything the Lord wants to give us is free. No one has to convince, beg, or bribe God to give to us. He desires to provide for everyone. There is no spiritual elite in the kingdom of our Lord. Everyone has equal access to all of the blessings, resources, provisions, and graces of God. But we must come to Him to receive; there is no other way.

## Isaiah 55:2

> 2 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.

**Verse 2:** We try to be satisfied in a variety of ways. We look at relationships, money, stuff, vacations and everything else to bring us the happiness we long for. We may get a

temporary high but then we are brought low again. This makes us go in search of something else to satisfy us. Maybe the next relationship is the answer or more money or stuff or experiences...but nothing completely fills up our need. We still are incomplete, lacking something. We dull the pain and we can ignore it for awhile, but eventually the emptiness surfaces.

The Lord wants to “delight our souls”. Did you ever consider that? Often we picture God as this stern old man who does not want anyone to have any fun. If He does see someone enjoying himself, He will strike him with something bad. This is a false picture of the Lord. He wants to delight you. He knows what will truly stir your soul to joy. God knows what is good for you.

David Guzik is Pastor of the Calvary Chapel church in Simi Valley, California. I liked what he wrote in his commentary on this passage so I included it here:

Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance: The invitation is clear. The offer is made, the provision is made, and everything is available - but we must still do some things.

i. First, we must listen diligently. The satisfaction God promises doesn't come to those who don't listen, and listen diligently. It takes time, attention, and effort to listen diligently, and some aren't willing do this.

ii. Second, we must eat what is good. This requires some discernment. We must choose what is good, and then eat that. Many just simply eat whatever spiritual meal is set before them, without taking care to see that it is good.

iii. Third, we must let your soul delight itself in abundance. Even when we listen, even when we eat what is good, we still must let our soul delight itself in abundance. You can sit down at a great spiritual meal, but by your stubborn or bad attitude, simply not let your soul delight itself in abundance. Guzik, David. “David Guzik’s Commentaries on the Bible.” 2001-2007. 18 October 2007. <http://www.studylight.org/com/guz/view.cgi?book=isa&chapter=055>

Are you ready for your soul to be delighted?

DAY 2

# Up Close and Personal

Confess any attitude or action that is blocking you from experiencing spiritual abundance.

How are you listening diligently to the Lord?

How are you able to discern if spiritual teaching is good or not?

How will you know when your soul is delighted? When have you experienced it before?

DAY 3

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-3

As I was researching to write more on Isaiah 55:1-2, I came across a commentary by a man named Hampton Keathley III, Th.M. I read his article and I was impressed with his insight so I looked him up. This is what I found out:

Hampton Keathley III, Th.M. is a 1966 graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and a former pastor of 28 years. In August of 2001 he was diagnosed with lung cancer and on August 29th, 2002 he went home to be with the Lord.

October 18, 2007. <http://www.bible.org/author.php?author_id=22>

As I read this mini-biography I realized that right now Hampton Keathley III is fully living the satisfied life. While I keep searching for it in all the wrong places, he knows that satisfaction, complete satisfaction, the delight of the soul, is in God's Presence alone. I can write that the Lord fully satisfies but do I really mean it? Am I living in the present day to day, moment by moment, reality of satisfaction? If not, then I am trying to get something from this world that it cannot give. For it cannot fulfill my soul.

As I evaluate my life, I realize I have a long way to go in this area. At this moment, I do not feel like I can teach you. However, I believe Hampton Keathley III can. If you will bear with me, I ask that you read his words on these verses because he is by far the expert, not me.

## Appendix 2: Exposition of Isaiah 55:1-3

By: J. Hampton Keathley, III , Th.M.

## Isaiah 55:1-3

55:1 "Hey, all who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come! Buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost! 55:2 Why pay money for something that will not nourish you? Why spend your hard-earned money on something that will not satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is nourishing! Enjoy fine food! 55:3 Pay attention and come to me! Listen, so you can live! Then I will make an unconditional covenantal promise to you, just like the reliable covenantal promises I made to David.

The Invitation (vs. 1)

The context is that of the coming of the suffering servant of the Lord, the Messiah, and His all-sufficient work on the cross where He bore our sins in His body, where He was wounded

for us, the innocent dying as a substitute for the guilty. Because of what Messiah has done, the offer of this passage can be made.

“Hey.” This particle is an emphatic way to get our attention.

“All.” This is a universal invitation. No one is exempt; it applies to all. It is available to all and all need it.

“Who are thirsty.” Thirsts indicates an intense desire, but also an intense need. It calls attention to the futility of life to really satisfy the innermost needs of man. This is an invitation to those who, experiencing the dryness of the world, are looking for something more and are open to the salvation of God.

“Come.” Three times this word is used to highlight God’s offer of salvation and of a life that is truly satisfying and meaningful. God says “come.” He says, “I have what you need and I want you to have it.”

• Such an invitation first of all stresses that the needy one is not at the place of blessing or relief and he must make a decision and come to that place. Wherever he is now won’t cut it. • The nature of this invitation expresses the urgency of the matter. It is urgent because the longer a person delays, the harder it is to come and the less opportunity there is to come (see 55:6). • The invitation to come expresses the loving heart of God. God wants us to experience His love, comfort, and provision (Isa. 40:1).

“To the water.” This is emblematic of abundant blessing and of the fact that only the salvation of God as revealed in the person and work of Christ and the Word can truly satisfy the thirst and needs of man.

“You who have no money, come! Buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost!” What is this saying? How can one buy without money?

God’s offer is absolutely free. Neither money, power, position, nor prestige can purchase what God has to offer us. It is the free gift of His grace through the gift of His Son who purchased man’s redemption (Rev. 21:6; 22:17).

The word “buy” is used in the sense of acquire or get, but, as we are told, we may buy without money. The word “buy” is the Hebrew, shabar. It meant, “to break” and then, “to purchase.” It was used of grain as that which was broken in the mill, or of food which breaks hunger (compare our word breakfast for “break your fast”). So God calls us to not only to buy or acquire, but to eat. The idea here is get bread and eat.

As the next verses make clear, God is calling man to come, listen, and feed on the living Word which in turn will produce faith (Rom. 10:17). Peter, remember, tells us faith is more precious than gold which perishes (1 Pet. 1:7). Why? Because faith is the channel by which we acquire or obtain the salvation of God and its manifold blessings (Eph. 2:8, 9).

“Wine and milk.” God’s salvation and its blessings are portrayed under these two symbols. Wine was often used at special feasts and portrays the joy and exhilaration which God’s salvation brings. Milk portrays sustenance, that which nourishes and is nutritious and healthful. The Call for Evaluation (vs. 2a)

By means of a question and through the prophet, the Lord calls upon us to see the futility of life and the efforts of people to find happiness or salvation apart from the free gift of His grace and a life lived out of the fullness of Christ through the Word where we can hear the voice of God.

“Spend.” This word literally means “weigh.” It referred to the counting out and weighing of silver or gold as the price paid for something.

“For something that will not nourish you.” Literally, the Hebrew says, “why do you weigh out money for the not- bread.” This is emphatic and dramatic. Bread is emblematic of the support of life or of whatever contributes to man’s support, happiness, and comfort. But in this regard, what man finds is really not-bread, it is futility. The Apostle Paul warns us against this same futility in a context that stresses the importance of the Word (Eph. 4:17).

The choice of the verb in Isaiah 55:2a and this negative noun, not-bread, dramatizes the difficulty and the futility of man’s ability to find or procure that which will supply his real needs apart from God and His plan (cf. Deut. 8:3).

“Why spend your hard-earned money on something that will not satisfy?” “Wages” is literally, “toil or labor.” Our wages are the result of our toil or work.

People are habitually weighing out what they have earned by toil for that which does not, in the final analysis, truly satisfy. Man, therefore, is left running on the gerbil wheel of fortune in hot pursuit of things—position, power, pleasure, possessions—looking for happiness in all the wrong places and things which are simply incapable of giving it. Is man ever satisfied with what he has? How much money is enough? More! How much pleasure? More! How much power? More!

Compare these verses: Proverbs 27:20; Ecclesiastes 1:8; 4:8; 5:10. There is a void in man which only God can fill, so we naturally have the next point in Isaiah 55. A Call for Investigation (vss. 2b, 3a)

Verses 2b and 3a call us to an investigation of God's Word, which, far in excess of the purest of gold, reveals and provides the real values of life.

"Listen carefully to me and eat …" Where do we listen to God? In His Word. The idea is, that by attending to God's Word and by feeding upon its truth, men will find, without money or price, that which they were seeking at so much expense, toil, and pain. Finding and experiencing God's truth will lead to resting in and enjoying the blessings of God's covenant which offers salvation to all men with all its consequent blessings of life. Here and here alone is the source of real security, satisfaction, and significance in life.

DAY 3

# Up Close and Personal

Thank the Lord that He is merciful enough to repeat His warnings. Ask for His help to respond to His Word today.

When do you come to God to listen to His Word?

What are you pursuing besides God (money, power, pleasure, etc.)? Why do you think it will satisfy you?

What is holding you back from believing that the Lord through the Word and the Person of Jesus Christ can completely satisfy?

How will you begin to feed more on the Word of God?

DAY 4

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Leviticus 23:39-43; John 7:37-39; Deuteronomy 16:16-17

The Jewish calendar has special celebrations held throughout the year. These festivals were to celebrate or ponder the ways of God. One of these events is called the Feast of Tabernacles.

### Leviticus 23:39-43

> 39 " 'So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. 40 On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. 41 Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths 43 so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' "

**Verse 39-43:** This joyous celebration was a required event. All male Israelites had to attend this festival every year. (Deuteronomy 16:16). Wouldn't it be wonderful if our government had built in holidays for everyone and we were required to celebrate them with joy! The Lord had built in holidays for His people but these holidays were for a purpose. It was to give the people time to reflect on the way they had been blessed by God in the past year. By living in the booths, they were reminded of their people's history when God brought a group of slaves out of Egypt and made them into a mighty nation. The Lord is powerful, loving, and a blessing to His people.

Jesus Himself celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles. Obedient to the law, He made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem to be a part of the celebration. But one year He took the event to an entirely new level.

### John 7:37-38

> 37On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

**Verse 37-39:** My NIV text note states that "Teachers usually sat, so Jesus drew special attention to His message." Does this remind you of the Charles Spurgeon quote from day

one?

Oh, the condescension of God! That he should, as it were, become a beggar to his own creature…

In that culture, the teaching authority sat. But Jesus breaks the cultural rules so that He may beg the people to come. A standing teacher would have been unusual so it would have caught the attention of the people. Today, it would be like someone standing on a box in the street while shouting through a megaphone. Jesus wanted the people to hear His words: “Come to Me.” If you are spiritually thirsty, Jesus will fill you. He explains to us how this is done.

### John 7:39

> 39By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

**Verse 39:** The Holy Spirit is the answer to our every need. When we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are given the Holy Spirit, God Himself, to reside within us. The Lord within will enliven us. He who created the heavens and earth creates within us. Somehow the Spirit transforms us into being all we were created to be. This is not a carbon copy of anyone else. Instead our personality, talents, and experiences are energized into more than what we could have ever been on our own yet everything we have ever desired but have been unable to attain. Jim Cymbala explains this truth in this way:

God has given us a very simple equation if only we have the faith to reach out and experience it:

1. The Holy Spirit’s power is our greatest need. 2. This power and blessing is freely promised to all of God’s people. 3. This promise can only be fully received through sincere praying in faith and through waiting on God for His blessing to come.

This is what happened in the New Testament, and this is the only thing that will satisfy our soul’s thirst.

Cymbala, Jim. Living Abundantly Through God’s Blessing. China: Zondervan, 2004, p. 49.

Jesus cried out to the people, desiring to give them everything their souls were longing for. But He was just being obedient to the law.

### Deuteronomy 16:16-17

> 16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: 17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

**Verse 16-17:** Jesus was bringing the greatest gift to the Feast of Tabernacles: God Himself. The Most Blessed in the universe was wanting to bless others with the gift of His eternal salvation which was proven by the giving of the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who believed in Jesus. The Spirit, God Himself, is within us. He is not giving us any leftovers. He wants to make our lives overflowing not barely getting by but living in spiritual abundance. That is reason for true celebration. The Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated by people living in booths. We can celebrate because the Spirit lives in people!

DAY 4

# Up Close and Personal

Praise Jesus Christ for giving us the Holy Spirit!

How does it feel to know that the Spirit resides within you (if you are a believer in Christ Jesus)?

How do you draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit in your day to day life?

Why is the Holy Spirit such an amazing gift from Jesus to us?

DAY 5

# The Word

Today's Scripture: Revelation 3:14-21; Isaiah 55:1-2

I am unsure of how to end this week. We have probed the reality of the Lord as being able to satisfy our hearts and delight our souls. Yet, as I look upon the churches in our nation, it seems to be untrue. Our lives do not reflect ones satisfied completely in Christ. As I think about how we act compared to all we have been offered, I must come to the conclusion that we are not accepting God's gifts but choosing our own to the detriment of our souls.

## Revelation 3:14-18

> 14"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

**Verse 14-18:** America is the wealthiest nation on earth, yet spiritually we are one of the poorest. We are the fifth largest mission field in the world. Churches from other nations are sending missionaries to convert us! To me, it proves that the majority of American churches are ineffective. We think we are "rich" while in reality we are "poor, wretched, and blind". If we as the church are not finding our full satisfaction in Christ, why would the world want to listen to anything we say? We are hypocrites.

## Revelation 3:19

> 19Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

**Verse 19:** Repentance. That is the answer we need. The church of God needs to repent from our self-righteous, self-sufficient ways. The Lord tell us to come to Him to receive all we want and need, the answer is Jesus, not ourselves. We must receive His rebuke and discipline so we may experience everything that we were made for: full satisfaction in Him.

## Revelation 3:20

> 20Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

**Verse 20:** Once again we see the King of the universe stoop down to us. His church has shut Him out and He reaches out to the very own who closed Him off. In the book “Mr. God, this is Anna,” an eight year old girl sees the amazement of this truth this way:

You could, if you wished, deny that Mister God existed, but then any denial didn’t alter the fact that Mister God was. No, Mister God was; he was the kingpin, the center, the very heart of things; and this is where it got funny…This is the curious nature of Mister God: that even while he is at the center of all things, he waits outside us and knocks to come in. It is we who open the door. Mister God doesn’t break it down and come in; no, he knocks and waits.

Fynn. Mister God, This is Anna. New York: Random House, 1974, p. 167.

I cannot get over the grace of God: He comes to us in our arrogant state and reaches out to us. Why would He want to dine with the very ones who rejected Him? We meet together on Sundays but our hearts are far from Him. For if this was not true our nation would be completely different. We cannot blame the world for being corrupt, for sin is all it knows. The moral blame is upon the church, the only one who can set up moral boundaries. If the church is blind, poor, naked, and wretched what will become of the world?

### Revelation 3:21

> 21To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

**Verse 21:** Jesus is offering us everything we need in this world, not to just “survive” or make it through but to overcome. He is talking about victory, enjoyment, satisfaction! That is the kind of life I want, don’t you? We can have it. It’s available. God is offering it to us.

### Isaiah 55:1-2

> 1 "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.
>
> 2 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.

**Verse 1-2:** The Lord is willing to meet with us. He is ready to forgive us. He wants to grace us with everything we need in life. All we have to do is come; He is as close as someone knocking on your door.

DAY 5

# Up Close and Personal

Confess the ways that you search for satisfaction in this world.

Why is the corruption of society a reflection on the churches?

What are your thoughts about other countries sending missionaries to America?

How does our lack of satisfaction in God affect our testimony about Christ to those who are unbelievers?