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# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. ISAIAH

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## CHAPTERS 40-66

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### Lesson 8: 55:1-57:21 - God's generous gift to all

#### Introduction

Christmas is coming up quickly. What is the best Christmas present that you ever received?

#### Lesson Goal: To share the generous gift of God with others

#### Gift purchased, delivered, and received (55:1-56:2)

With inflation these days, we probably can't fathom buying something with no money. What is God saying here?

Black Friday is coming up. Have you ever gone Black Friday shopping. God is instructing his people to pursue situation like a Black Friday shopper looking for a deal. How urgently do Black Friday shopper pursue something?

55:6 says, "Seek the Lord while he may be found!" What does this imply?

When is the time in which the Lord will not be able to be found?

Agree or Disagree: A person can have 'found' the Lord and still live in wickedness.

How should the church deal with sin and sinners? Consider the following examples.

Divorce -

Sexual immorality -

Anger -

Dishonesty -

God's thoughts are higher than ours and his ways are greater than ours according to 55:8-9. Regarding God's great gift, how is this especially true?

55:11 speaks about the efficacy of God's Word; how does this connect to the concept of the delivery of God's gift?

Referencing 56:2, how does one grab hold of the gift that God gives?

If someone receives a Christmas present, you will likely know by seeing it. What evidence will you see that someone has received God's gift?

### **Given for all (56:3-12)**

Foreigners and eunuchs would not have been able to enter the temple, where God dwelt among his people. Through Jesus, these barriers were taken down. God's gift is for all. What 'outsiders' might we list that would be equally as striking for us?

God's house would be a house of prayer for all people.  
How can we encourage the inclusion of all people?

How might we hinder this inclusion?

### **A lasting gift (57:1-21)**

According to verse 1, an 'early' death for a Christian can be a gift from God. How can this be the case?

What is the peace into which the righteous one enters? (v.2)

We are reminded in verses 3-11 that God will bring punishment upon the wicked. This is repeated in verses 20-21. How can God be threatening to the wicked and forgiving of them?

Let's compare verse 19 to Ephesians 2:17-19. Who are those who are far off? Who are those who are near?

The gift that God gives is an everlasting gift. Any physical present that you have given someone, no matter how expensive, is not lasting. How can you share this lasting gift with those you love?

### **Conclusion**

Challenge: Write down the names of two people who you can invite to church this Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ to share this wonderful gift with them.