

LENTEN FAITH SHARING

Week Three

Week 3: Isaiah 55: 1-5

“Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what does not satisfy? Pay attention! Come to me heedfully; listen that you may have life.” Isaiah 55 2-3

The Leader leads the participants through the Centering Prayer Process and Lectio Divina

Begin with **Centering Prayer.**

Sit comfortably with eyes closed.

Begin to slowly breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.

As you slowly breathe in, image God breathing breath into your center.

As you breathe out through your mouth, let it be a moment of letting go of your anxieties, worries, anger, hatred, frustrations.

Repeat this practice several times.

1. Choose a Sacred Word or Mantra as a symbol of your intention to consent to God’s presence and action within.
Whenever you become aware of distractions, sounds, thoughts of other things, simply return to the Lord with Centering or your prayer word/s.
(Repeat this exercise three to four times. Trusting that you are sitting in God’s Holy presence by yourself and with other.

While sitting in silence, open your life to become aware of the presence of God with you personally and with the Share Group.

2. **Lectio Divina** – Choose a Reader. The Leader leads the Lectio Divina

Read Isaiah 55: 1-5 slowly, while pausing between paragraphs for silence.

Invite participants to rest in silence for a few moments.

Invite them to savor a word, a phrase or a feeling that rises in you. Reflect on this quietly.

The Leader, after some time of silence can invite participants to share the **word** or phrase aloud.

The Reading is slowly read a second time by the Reader.

Pause for silent reflection.

The leader invites participants to share their experience using the Reflection responses below.

Reflection

The Prophet Isaiah invites all to return to the Lord, using the figure of a banquet, the Covenant banquet of Exodus. It is a feast of wine, bread, and rich food with God's everlasting Covenant.

The banquet is not limited to those who have sufficient resources or are in good public standing. It is important, however that ALL have a spiritual hunger and thirst.

This Scripture passage describes life in God's future kingdom as a banquet. The Prophet Isaiah presents an imagery of God's final banquet resonating down through the ages and overflowing into the ministry of Jesus. Jesus associates with the outcasts, the oppressed, the poor and the lost. He welcomes sinners and eats with them. Through his example we experience our personal invitation to share his Eucharist. All who hunger, thirst and desire God in their lives, can look forward to the Messianic banquet that will celebrate the **full union of Christ and his Church**, at the end of time.

Both Isaiah and Jesus are inviting us to discover our deepest needs? This Scripture passage is inviting us to ask God for the desire to join with the poor and oppressed people at the banquet of his kingdom.

Reflection responses

1. What in the reading stirred your heart?
2. Does this Scripture story take on meaning for your life?
3. Did the story help you make connections to the Eucharist?
4. What has God taught you about yourself through testing?
5. What did you find enlightening?
6. What do you find to be your deepest spiritual need?

Action – Connect with the disconnected.

How or what will you do to share your experience of Eucharist through the Scriptures and worship with someone who is not participating in the Eucharist?

Can you gently and lovingly, and without judgment, ask another what prevents them from coming to experience the Eucharist?

Listen! Listen! Listen! The Holy Spirit will provide the words you should speak.

Isaiah 55: 1-5

1 All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
You who have no money,
come, buy grain and eat;
Come, buy grain without money,
wine and milk without cost!

2 Why spend your money for what is not bread;
your wages for what does not satisfy?
Only listen to me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.

3 Pay attention and come to me;
listen, that you may have life.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
the steadfast loyalty promised to David.

4 As I made him a witness to peoples,
a leader and commander of peoples,

5 So shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and a nation that knew you not shall run to you,
Because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.