

**Week 7 | MARKS OF A REDEEMED COMMUNITY
(Isaiah 56:1-8)**



ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin as a tool to do so. If you haven't had a chance yet, make sure and do the Community Group Self-Assessment.

Consider reading the updates from Mazatlan and spend some time praying for all our New City folks on the trip.

On Saturday, April 26th there's an opportunity to do some tutoring with John P. Parker students to help them get ready for standardized tests. Consider serving on this "Super Saturday"! Check the website/the City for more details.

Especially note that coming up on the first weekend in May we are having our worship gathering on SATURDAY evening and staffing a Hydration Station for the Flying Pig. We've been moved from mile 24 down on River Rd. to mile 10 near Erie & Madison! To serve you NEED to register online. Visit the post about it on The City for more info and for a link to sign up. Consider all serving together as a community group. It's fun and it's a great way to serve, literally giving a cup of water to those who are thirsty! ;)

ENGAGE (10 minutes)

Starter question(s)

Amusing: What's your jam? What song gets you dancing wildly when you're by yourself and it comes on?

Deeper: If you could rid the world of one evil/injustice/societal ill, what would it be and why?

REFLECTION & STUDY (30-35 minutes)

Up through Easter we're going to be looking at the latter chapters of Isaiah, particularly focusing on the Suffering Servant. This week we're looking at Isaiah 49.

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>> READ>> *Isaiah 56:1-8*

- (1) What immediately stands out to you as interesting, encouraging, challenging, confusing, etc.?
- (2) What does this passage teach us about God?
- (3) What comes to mind when you hear the challenge in v. 1 to “keep justice and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come and my righteousness be revealed.”?
- (4) In his sermon on Sunday Josh mentioned three marks of a redeemed community that Isaiah highlights in this passage. What characteristics of a redeemed community do you see in these verses? That is, what is to be true about the community of those people for whom Christ, the suffering servant, has died?
- (5) >>READ>> Luke 4.16-22. Jesus’ first “sermon” was from this section of servant songs in Isaiah. In this first “sermon” what marks of the redeemed community are reflected?
- (6) >>READ>> Acts 8.26-40. What does this story tell us about the openness of the gospel community? What does it tell us about the meaning and value of the book of Isaiah for the church and people even today?
- (7) >>READ>> Matthew 11.28. What is Jesus’ invitation?
- (8) It’s difficult to take a look at ourselves but how are WE (as families, as a church, as a community group, etc.) doing at living out our lives as a community of justice, openness, and rest? Explain.
- (9) How is God’s grace a catalyst for and motivator for us to live as a redeemed community manifesting justice, openness, and rest? How do you need to live differently in light of this passage in Isaiah 56?

PRAYER (15 minutes)

Take some time and pray together. You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.