



LONGING FOR CHRISTMAS

ISAIAH 55:1-9

“HOME”

DECEMBER 1, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Jeff asked us this week, “Why do we long for Christmas?”

That is because Christmas, above all other Western holidays, is filled with a deep longing. At its core, Christmas awakens our longing to be “home.” Because being “home” is the innate desire every human being has. We want to go home, feel at home, have a home, you name it—we long for a home.

However, if it is a universal longing, we should ask ourselves why. Why do we long for “Home” but never seem to find it?

Pastor Jeff proposes the answer is simple: We were made for a different home than the one we have here. We were made for an eternal home. More importantly, we were made to be home with God. Pastor Jeff unpacked this truth from Isaiah 55, which outlines the home God has offered us and the pathway to get there.

Pastor explained this through three questions:

- What are we offered? A home with God where we are safe and loved forever.
- Who is Invited? Everyone, free of price.
- How do we find our Home, God? All who would return to God by repentance through his Son Jesus.

Pastor Jeff challenged us not to let this longing for home go to waste. Your longing points you to God, and today is the day to receive it.

So, if you are distant from God, you need to come home. If you are home but playing it safe, you need to drink deeply. If you have received this home, you need to rejoice and rest. Take this opportunity to truly Come home for Christmas—in the truest sense of the phrase.

Together, let's explore our longing and find the forever home offered to us in Christ.



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DISCUSSION

- How would you define the feeling of “Being Home”?

One way to describe “being home” is where you can REST because you feel SAFE and LOVED.

- Safe: Where your physical needs are met.
- Loved: Where emotional needs are met.

God hardwires the desire for those two feelings into every human heart.

- What happens if you have only one of those and not the other in your life?
- What happens if you have neither?

When those needs go unmet, we scratch and claw to meet them in any way we can—healthily or unhealthily. Yet there is no true source of safety and love apart from God, and we end up with cheap counterfeits.

- In what ways do you see yourself trying to find the feelings of “home” apart from God?

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Isaiah 55:1-9

- What Jumps out to you in Isaiah 55?
- Big picture: what is God trying to communicate his people through this text?
- What problem is he explicitly trying to address that the people were facing?
- What was his invitation/remedy to them?

Experience Transformation

In the passage, God offers satisfaction for the thirsty and hungry. He wants to provide rest, comfort, and joy, which are the by-products of safety and love.

- Of the two (safety/love), which one do you feel the longing for more and why?
- How does this passage speak to that longing?
- What is God's invitation to you today to practically REST in him?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.