

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Summer Series

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: God's Way, Not Our Way

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Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways", declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word to lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** Jesus invites us to experience His lavish & insurmountable compassion & pardon.

## Read Isaiah 55:6-9, 12-13

1. What does it mean to you to seek the Lord? How often do you seek the Lord? What steps do you take to draw near to Him?
2. You may come to the Lord as you are, but He does not want you to stay as you are. He wants you to turn from your sin. What are some things in your life that you know Christ wants you to forsake? Are there "wicked ways" or "evil thoughts" you need to repent of?
3. God is inviting us to turn from our sin and return to Him. Why can turning away from sin be difficult? What does our desire to keep sin hidden say about sin, about our view of ourself, and our view of God?
4. Some sins in our life may be obvious and others may be more hidden. How can we go about identifying our sin? After we have identified our sin, what do we need to



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do to move away from it and grow closer to God?

5. God delights in extending compassion and forgiveness. Think about a time when you desperately needed forgiveness. How did you feel, and how did receiving forgiveness change things? Sometimes, the most difficult person to forgive is yourself. How can we receive God's forgiveness and feel that grace applied in our life?
6. Do you struggle with understanding the scope and magnitude of God's great love and forgiveness? Have you ever felt that you or another should not be forgiven for something? When you see God's forgiveness in action, does it bring you joy like it did King David? Or does it frustrate you like it did Job?
7. Whenever we come face to face with the way God forgives us, we are challenged to forgive others. Read Matthew 6:12, 14-15 and notice the link between God forgiving us and our forgiveness of others. Is there someone you need to forgive, or someone you need to seek forgiveness from?
8. Isaiah 55:12-13 conveys that God's forgiveness should be a joy for us. And that our joy be a visible testimony for others to see that will bring glory back to God. How can we more embody a spirit of joy? How can we use this evangelistically to share God's greatness with others?



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