

BELONGING SHARED

Isaiah 56:1-8

God's gathering of people was never meant to be exclusive. Through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks directly to those long excluded—the foreigner, the eunuch, the outsider—with a promise: *You belong here, too*. The invitation into God's presence is not based on ancestry or status but on a heart aligned with God's justice and love.

☐ **Monday: Read Isaiah 56:1-2.**

God links righteousness and justice with belonging.

What do you think it means that justice is the foundation of God's welcome?

Where in your life do you most need to be reminded that you belong to God, not because of status or achievement, but because of God's grace?

☐ **Tuesday: Read Isaiah 56:3.**

The "foreigner" and the "eunuch" were among the most excluded in ancient society.

Who in our community today might feel excluded from God's people, and how might God be calling you to notice them?

☐ **Wednesday: Read Isaiah 56:4-5.**

God promises to give those who were excluded "a name better than sons and daughters."

What names, labels, or identities has the world tried to give you? Which of those do you need to let go of in order to receive God's lasting name (or identity) for you?

☐ **Thursday: Read Isaiah 56:6-8.**

God's vision is not just for inclusion, but for shared worship.

How does worship itself become an act of welcome? When you gather with others to worship, how can you actively help someone else feel a sense of belonging?

☐ **Friday: Read Mark 1:40-45.**

Jesus heals a leper who to everyone else was "untouchable."

Who today feels "untouchable," and what might it mean for us to reach out in Christlike compassion? What holds you back from helping others know they belong, and how might Jesus invite you to cross those barriers with love?

☐ **Saturday: Read Romans 15:7.**

Paul says, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you."

What does the phrase, "You are embraced, now be the embrace," mean to you?

What is one practical step you can take to extend God's welcome to someone else?

Isaiah's expansive vision of worship and welcome echoes through time to the church today: God's embrace is for *all people*, and we are called to make space, extend invitation, and live lives of radical hospitality.

You are embraced—now be the embrace.