



## Free Offer

*Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the water; and you without silver, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without silver and without cost! ~ Isaiah 55:1*


### Discover the Context

Isaiah 55:1-9

 How would you define religion? How is the gospel different from religion? What happens to the gospel message if we fail to tell campers about the cost of the gospel?

 “Religion says, *Attain*; the gospel says, *Obtain*. Religion says, *Attempt*; the gospel says, *Accept*. Religion says, *Try*; the gospel says, *Trust*. Religion says, *Do this*; the gospel says, *It is done.*”

~ John T. Seamands  
*Tell it Well*

 In our passion to see campers come to faith in Christ, it is easy to use phrases or invitations that distort the gospel. Use these ABCs to help keep your gospel presentation simple and direct. Acknowledge your sin and inability to earn your salvation. Believe in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Confess you need for Jesus and trust in him.

Some camps offer special deals like early-bird specials for registering campers in January. Other camps offer deep discounts for registering siblings. Still others offer scholarships or subsidies for campers who qualify. But the best deal comes from camps that offer free camping—just register and show up; it’s absolutely free!

Of course, someone has to pay for it, so these camps must have really generous supporters or a large endowment.

In a far greater way, God freely offers salvation—complete forgiveness of sins, acceptance with the Father, and perfect righteousness. Yes, someone has to pay for it, but that has already been taken care of. Jesus Christ died on the cross, offering up his life so we can be rescued and receive the greatest gift in the world.

So now, the rest is up to you. The first verse in Isaiah 55 says that you simply need to come.

This is our message to campers. And it’s a pretty sweet deal. Free!

Anyone who has felt the need for divine strength and yearns for more is invited to come. Whoever has found the world’s answers to be empty is invited to come. The person who has made a mess of their life and has come to the end of their rope, so to speak, is invited to come. Everyone who has found themselves to fall short of the glory of God is invited to come. If you’re thirsty, come and get it!

Some people wonder what the catch is, thinking it’s too good to be true, and there’s no such thing as a free lunch. But God’s ways are higher and better than ours. He could have just straight up given this free gift to all people, even the suspicious and the proud. But he doesn’t. He offers it to all, knowing that only those who are humble and see themselves as needy will come.

This deal is discussed and explained throughout the rest of Isaiah 55. It’s so amazing we’re going to spend all this week exploring it. (JCR)