



## What's Group Like In Malawi?

Isaiah 55:1-13

November 6, 2022

Community Group Discussion Questions

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### Please Read This To Group Before Leading Discussion

- **Tonight we are mixing things up! We will be learning about one of our Northridge Beyond Partners, Hope International, and learning what God is doing in Malawi through savings group ministry. We'll also discuss how our own groups care for one another like these savings groups.**
- **During Sunday Morning service Northridge shared the story of Regina. One major piece of her story were relationships formed by joining a savings group. Here is a video Northridge has provided for us to watch so we can learn about what savings groups are like.**
- **[CLICK TO WATCH THIS SAVINGS GROUP VIDEO:](https://vimeo.com/735473736/da1690ee3e)**
- **<https://vimeo.com/735473736/da1690ee3e>**

### OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)

1. **How do savings groups and community groups compare? Any similarities?**
2. **What strengths do you see in Savings Groups that we could learn from?**

### DIGGING DEEPER (10-15 Minutes)

3. **Read This:**
  - **During savings groups in Malawi, members read God's word together and discuss it. We are going to read a passage from Isaiah together and then discuss it. We are also going to read some of the reflections from actual group members in Malawi discussing Isaiah 55.**
4. **Read Isaiah 55:1-13.**
  - **What does God want us to learn from this passage about Him and about ourselves?**
  - If you find this passage confusing, here is some brief commentary you can share with your group:
    - Vs. 1-13 God offers free grace and provision to all who come to Him.
    - Vs. 1-2 Isaiah writes to Jews who had been taken from their land. God encourages both Jews and all nations to come to him as he will freely provide mercy and provision if they come to Him.
    - Vs. 3-5 God extends his offer of salvation and provision to both Jews and the rest of the world through Jesus (David's descendent).
    - Vs. 6-7 God warns everyone to turn to God for mercy now, while they still can.
    - Vs. 8-9 God's offer of mercy toward sinners is beyond human comprehension.
    - Vs. 10-11 God's plan will be accomplished no matter what.
    - Vs. 12-13 When people turn to God they will be blessed and God's glory will be seen.
5. **Read These Comments From Savings Group Members In Malawi:**
  - **"When we count trials, tribulations, and challenges, we need to leave them to God and trust Him that all things will be okay (vs 6)."**
  - **"We may feel like God isn't answering our prayers because of bad things in our lives, but we need to keep bringing requests to God because He is willing to listen."**
  - **"Maybe we are doing things that are contrary to what God wants us to do."**
  - **"God hears and answers our prayers every time, but you may not always get the answer today, you may have to wait until another day to get the answer."**

**6. Discuss:**

- What resonates with you about what Malawian Christians learned from Isaiah 55?

**APPLYING IT (10 Minutes)**

- 7. Interdependence is when everyone in the group gives to the group and benefits from the group.**
- As a group how do we depend on each other? How could we do this more?
  - As a group do we have a balance of all members both giving and receiving?

**PRAYER FOR MALAWI (10 Minutes)**

Watch the guided prayer video showing footage and giving prayer requests for Malawi. Pray as a group afterward for groups in Malawi and at Northridge.

- [CLICK TO WATCH THIS PRAYER VIDEO:](#)
- <https://vimeo.com/356651798>

Pray for the following:

- Praise God for the Church in Malawi and the ways God is moving among believers and the unity of the church.
- Grieve the great need in Malawi that results in isolation, lack of education, and low life expectancy.
- Pray for God's blessing and prosperity over the nearly 80,000 savings group members in Malawi.
- Pray for increased access to the gospel for Muslims and refugees in Malawi through savings group ministry.
- Ask God to provide: a steady income to those with jobs, rain to quench the earth, and sufficient crops to nourish the nation.
- Pray this passage, "Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord have created it." - Isaiah 45:8

**WANT TO STAY CONNECTED WITH MALAWI?**

- Receive prayer updates for Hope International [HERE](#). (<https://www.hopeinternational.org/take-action/pray>)
- Give to savings groups [HERE](#). (<https://www.hopeinternational.org/donate>)
- Have questions or comments? We'd love to hear from you! Email [mgerringer@northridgerochester.com](mailto:mgerringer@northridgerochester.com)

**WANT TO SEE MORE?**

- [John's Story \(https://www.hopeinternational.org/learn/video-detail/experience-a-savings-group-in-360\)](https://www.hopeinternational.org/learn/video-detail/experience-a-savings-group-in-360) - Watch this 360° video and travel to Mulanje, Malawi, to experience a savings group meeting and witness how HOPE International equips John's family to invest in their dreams