

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, July 12, 2026 (Pentecost 7)

Isaiah 55:10-13

Discussion Starters

1. What does it mean that "God's word will not return empty (or void)?"
2. What changes are obvious as a result of the accomplished purposes of God's word? (Note the changes both in people and in nature.)
3. What are ways that you have seen God's Word evoke change?
4. This entire 55th chapter is rich in meaning! What other things do you read in verses 1-10 that add to your understanding of the effectiveness of God's Word?

Romans 8:1-11

Discussion Starters

1. What does Paul teach about the option Christians have when it comes to living their lives?
2. Since we are not set right with God by any good works that we do, what is our motivation for doing them?
3. Where is the battle for control of your life going to be fought?
4. The next time you feel guilty for past sins you've committed, what does Paul want you to remember?

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Discussion Starters

1. What four types of soil does Jesus mention? What characterizes each? What happens to the seed in each kind of soil?
2. What does Jesus' explanation of the parable reveal about the seed? The various soils? The fruit? The farmer?
3. What might be modern day examples of each kind of soil?
4. How does one go about improving the quality of the soil in their own life?
5. What is a parable, and why did Jesus use them to teach?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?