



# Links Players

## WHY AM I HERE? 2: SEEKING GOD

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6, *ESV*)

**T**HREE MINUTES. Not five, and not just until a group shows up behind you on the golf course. Three minutes is how long the Rules of Golf allow you to look for a golf ball, with the time beginning “after the player or his or her caddie begins to search for it” (Rule 18.2).

You probably knew that the search time allowed changed in 2019 from five to three minutes. But did you know the clock can be stopped? Let’s say you are playing stroke play and search for one minute and find a ball, assuming it is yours. You grab a club, get ready to play the ball, then realize it is a wrong ball. That prep time doesn’t count against you—you still have two minutes to search.

You should use those two minutes, because they can “save you six”—two strokes on your score and four dollars for a golf ball. The same is true if you’ve been seeking *something* for most of your life, think you have found it (fame, fortune, power), but then realize it isn’t the thing you really need. It isn’t God.

One thing God wants from his creation, especially humanity, which he created in his image, is for us to seek him. Today’s passage from Isaiah is one verse from a beautiful chapter where the prophet calls the entire world to faith.

The chapter begins, “Come, everyone who thirsts.” That thirst is the *something* I mentioned above. It applies to every person, because we all long for that which will quench our thirst. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that he himself was the source of the water that quenched thirst forever (John 4:14), and later he made a similar statement in a very public place (John 7:37).

But it isn’t only those who have yet to enter into a relationship with God who need to seek him; those who know him should seek him as well. I’m reminded of the classic signs that graced the fronts of small town churches back in the day. One of my favorites was, and still is, “If you’re not close to God, who moved?”

So there is a seeking God to find him in the first place, and there is a seeking God to know him more intimately. Both are part of why we are here, and that makes all of us seekers. And if you aren’t sure how to seek, let me recommend joining a Links Fellowship. These small groups are friendly to both kinds of seeker.

**Opening questions** Are you better at finding golf balls or losing them? How long have you looked for a ball? How about someone else’s ball? • If you have found God, how long did you seek him?

**READING** Job 8:5-7; Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 14:1-3

### Good advice? (Job 8)

Who is speaking here, and to whom? Is the advice that is given good advice? Is it the kind of thing we might say to a friend who is experiencing troubled times? What part of this could have been an unwitting prophecy?

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### ‘While he may be found’ (Isaiah 55)

Does Isaiah create a sense of urgency in verse 6? What actions are called for in verse 7 for the wicked (unrighteous), and what promises are given? How do verses 8 and 9 apply specifically to verses 6 and 7?

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### Looking down from heaven (Psalm 14)

The psalmist says God is looking down from heaven. Where is he looking and what is he looking for? According to the psalmist, what does God see? What phrase appears in both verses 1 and 3? What does God see today?

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Written by Lewis Greer ©2020 Links Players International. An introductory video for this study is available here: <https://youtu.be/q8HeRaZQIbM>