

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Come Together*

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. – Isaiah 11:1 (NIV)*

Isaiah preaches to a divided kingdom. The people have been failed by their Davidic kings and find themselves in a deteriorating corrupt political climate surrounded by imminent destruction from powerful empires. They have been disobedient to God and have created a system of oppression and injustice for the weakest among them. The poor, the widow, and the orphan are preyed upon instead of cared for. Judah will soon be judged for their sin by their enemies who then in turn will also be judged.

Isaiah describes post judgement as a forest being cut down with nothing but the stumps remaining. Yet, out of these dead stumps God would rescue his people who are scattered with the “Root of Jesse” (Someone from David’s lineage). From a stump comes a Savior to gather all nations together. God brings the scattered together to start something new.

Discussion

1. Chapters 9 and 10 of Isaiah are examples of the failures of the Davidic kings. All that was ever hoped would be accomplished for the kingdom of Judah is never realized. From a place of destruction would come something new. How have you seen something new come from something ruined? Can this describe a part of your life’s story? How?
2. Read Isaiah 11. God would send the Savior to ultimately bring justice to the world. How would his rule be contrary to the ways of the world? How would he right wrongs? What wrongs need to be made right today?
3. From verses 6-8, how does Isaiah choose to describe the peace that this Savior would bring? How is peace not just for human kind but for all creation?
4. How does Jesus serve as banner? How can we choose to rally to him? What kind of hope does this give people who are on the “outside”?
5. How is coming together with all people evidence of the work of God in the world? How does this lead to an outpouring of praise (chapter 12)?

Application

6. Where does God need to start something new out of something old in your life? Where does he need to bring forth restoration from destruction?
7. What can you choose to do to be a catalyst for change, newness, and reconciliation for those who are scattered?

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