



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Isaiah 11:1-10

Message for the Week: Tender Waiting in Brokenness

Sunday, December 1

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

How hard is it for you to wait for Christmas to come?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Isaiah 11:1-11](#) out loud.

(Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.)

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

What is the stump of Jesse? What is the shoot coming from the stump of Jesse? What is the root of Jesse?

How is the shoot characterized in these verses?

What influence does the shoot have on the world?

What are verses 6-9 pointing us toward?

What is the difference between judging with our eyes and ears verses judging with righteousness?

Where, in what, or in whom are you finding hope in the brokenness?

## Take Away:

What is a main point or key message that you learned, understood, observed, or experienced that you are taking away with you from your group's reflections on the bible passage or your group's conversations today?

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Who in your group needs prayer today? Who in your group will you pray for?

Pray this prayer together:

Father in heaven, in the difficult days in which we live, we need you to remind us of the spiritual reality. Hope is alive and well. You have not left us, nor forsaken us. Encourage us through the truths of scripture in this Advent season that Hope is still alive, even in the midst of our daily life.  
AMEN

## "Try It" - Putting our Faith into Action:

As you wait for Christmas to come, pay attention to all the different things that you are hoping for each day. What do you notice about the things you are hoping for?

## Isaiah 11:1-10 - New International Version

### The Branch From Jesse

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

## Isaiah 11:1-10 - The Message

### A Green Shoot from Jesse's Stump

11<sup>1-5</sup> A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump,  
from his roots a budding Branch.

The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him,  
the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength,  
the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God.

Fear-of-God

will be all his joy and delight.

He won't judge by appearances,  
won't decide on the basis of hearsay.

He'll judge the needy by what is right,  
render decisions on earth's poor with justice.

His words will bring everyone to awed attention.

A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked.

Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots,  
and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land.

A Living Knowledge of God

<sup>6-9</sup> The wolf will romp with the lamb,  
the leopard sleep with the kid.

Calf and lion will eat from the same trough,  
and a little child will tend them.

Cow and bear will graze the same pasture,  
their calves and cubs grow up together,  
and the lion eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens,  
the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent.

Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill  
on my holy mountain.

The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive,  
a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

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<sup>10</sup> On that day, Jesse's Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious.