



Main Passage: Isaiah 11:1-10

Theological Theme

Jesus was born to bring God's perfect and everlasting peace over all creation. Christians should recognize and know that Jesus is "our banner" of everlasting peace.

Introduction

- ❓ What is something that you anticipated for a long time?
- ❓ How did that anticipation affect your enjoyment of the event?

1. The Person of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Using the illustration of chopping down trees in a forest and leaving stumps, the Lord described His plan. As only God can do, He was planning to bring life and victory out of something dead and lifeless. This prophecy was about Jesus Christ growing from the line of Jesse. It is interesting to note that God said Jesus would come from Jesse instead of King David, even though it is the same line. This may have been to stress the humble nature of Jesus.

- ❓ How do these verses point to the unexpected nature of the coming Messiah? Why was this important?
- ❓ What are some ways you need the characteristics of Jesus listed in these verses?
- ❓ Application: Where specifically do you need to turn to Jesus as Counselor and Helper today?

2. The Character of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:3-5)

We are called to be like Christ in how we live our lives here on earth. Studying the specific aspects of His nature is a good measuring stick for us today.

- ❓ How hard is it for you to submit to God instead of fulfilling selfish desires? What makes this difficult?
- ❓ Why are righteousness and faithfulness important? How are we to display these characteristics in our lives?
- ❓ Application: What action can you take to show care for someone else today instead of focusing only on your own needs or desires?

3. The Peace of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:6-10)

When Jesus comes back to reign it will be a different world. He is the Prince of Peace, and all the earth will recognize this truth. Things as we know them will be turned upside down.

- ❓ What does the predator and prey being at peace with each other say to you about the peace Jesus will bring?
- ❓ How does Jesus bring together people who might not naturally be at peace with one another?
- ❓ Application: How might you reflect the peace Jesus brings to people around you this Christmas season?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).