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Leader Guide

Jesus is Our Hope

December 11, 2022

Main Passage: Isaiah 35:1-10

Theological Theme

After the judgment, God promises restoration. Believers can look with anticipation to the future and what will happen when Jesus returns. Regardless of the difficult things you may be walking through, Advent reminds us that hope is found in Jesus.

Introduction

- ? What is one of your favorite restoration shows? Why do you think they are so popular?
- ? Why do you think all people are drawn to the idea of restoration?

1. Restoration Will Come (Isaiah 35:1-2)

In chapter 35, Isaiah painted a picture of what would come after the devastating punishment he described in earlier chapters. In chapter 34, God made it clear that the people would suffer the consequences of their ungodliness and be turned into a wilderness. Now Isaiah turned his writing to the restoration God had already planned to bring to the land and the people themselves.

- ? Can you think of an example where nature seemed to be glad or sad? How would you describe this?
- ? When has your life felt like a dry and desolate wilderness? How did you relate to God in this time?
- ? Application: How do you need to trust God more in this season of life?

2. The People Will Flourish (Isaiah 35:3-7)

There is no doubt that times of judgment or wilderness can make a person feel weak and cause knees to tremble. Isaiah made the point that when you trust God in all things, He will strengthen and empower you. As His people, we have no need to fear what others can do or what we may face. God wants us to seek strength in Him and continue in what He has called us to do.

- ? How do you relate to the weak hands and feeble knees imagery? What might threaten to immobilize you in your walk with Jesus?
- ? How has confidence in Jesus's power helped you stand strong and push back fear?
- ? Application: Where do you need the miraculous power of God to work in your life? How are you being intentional about filling up with the living water that Jesus offers?

3. Highway of Hope (Isaiah 35:8-10)

The Hebrew word used here for “road” (v. 8) indicates a highway or road raised above the ground. Isaiah described a high and glorious road to travel on. This type of road was not constructed with asphalt and work crews. This road was paved with the blood of Jesus and connects unworthy people with a holy God. It is the road from sin to holiness, from death to life, and from temporary to eternal.

- ❓ What guardrails in Scripture help keep you on the right “road”?
- ❓ What forms of attack have you faced from the enemy that can cause fear or hesitation in following Christ?
- ❓ Application: Where are you in relation to the God’s highway today? On the road? Watching from the grass? Far from the path? How is God calling you to respond to Him?

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).