

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, December 4, 2022 (Advent 2)

Isaiah 11:1-10

Discussion Starters

1. In the previous chapter, the "mighty tree of Assyria" was destroyed. What will happen to the roots of Jesse? Who/what is referred to by that image?
2. How does Isaiah describe the Spirit of the Lord? What does it mean that "the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him?"
3. What will the reign of this Branch be like? How far will it extend? What will be characteristics of this kingdom?
4. Verses 6-9 figuratively portray the peaceable kingdom. What types of people or situations may Isaiah have in mind here? (see 19:23-25)
5. What stories from the life of Jesus do you see reflected in this text from Isaiah?

Romans 15:4-13

Discussion Starters

1. According to this passage, why has Scripture been written? What are ways that has been true in your life? How might this understanding be helpful to you as you seek to encourage others to read their Bibles?
2. What attitudes and attributes does this passage encourage among believers?
3. What does it mean to "accept one another" (v. 7)? Does that mean even those with lifestyles that are contrary to our faith? Who are the "one another?"
4. What is the relationship of the Jews to the Gentiles according to this passage?
5. According to this passage, why did Jesus come to earth? Why would that have been an important component of His mission? Why would Paul have emphasized this to this particular audience?

Matthew 3:1-12

Discussion Starters

1. How would you describe John the Baptist? Who did his audiences think he was? Why do you think they went out into the desert to hear him?
2. What does John mean by "the kingdom of heaven?" How "near" is it?
3. How would you summarize John's message for people today? What kind of "fruit" does John expect to see?
4. What angered John about the Pharisees and Sadducees?
5. What are the images of coming judgment used by John and what do they mean?
6. How would you compare and contrast the ministries of John and Jesus?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?