

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

### **For Sunday, December 11, 2022 (Advent 3)**

#### **Isaiah 35:1-10**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. In contrast to the destruction for the wicked (chapter 34), what happens to the land and people that God saves?
2. What does the imagery of a blooming crocus in the wilderness communicate? What does this passage teach you about the ultimate purpose of God's judgment?
3. What do you know about Lebanon, Carmel and Sharon?
4. What impact will this spring-like salvation have on the people? When will all this happen?
5. Are the physical transformations here intended to be taken literally or figuratively? Why did you answer that way?
6. How do you see the life and ministry of Jesus reflected in this passage?

#### **James 5:7-10**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. How does the farmer imagery relate to our waiting? What lesson we are supposed to learn from this?
2. What are we waiting for? How is this like the farmer's harvest?
3. As we wait, what should we be on guard against?
4. What does the writer mean by "grumble" in verse 9? What are examples of how we might do this today?
5. In what ways would the prophets be examples for us as we wait (v. 10)? Give an example of a time when this would have been true for you.

#### **Matthew 11:2-11**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Where was John when this question is asked? Why was he there? How might being in that place cause John to have doubts about the identity of Jesus?
2. What evidence does Jesus provide for John? If John expected the same kind of Messiah that the rest of the Jews expected, would the response of Jesus be reassuring or cause the doubts to continue?
3. What does Jesus say about John?
4. Why would the "least" person in the kingdom be greater than John?
5. What kind of "prisons" cause people to doubt the identity of Jesus today?
6. When you face doubts and discouragements, what renews your faith? How can you be an encourager to someone who is struggling in this way?

#### **WRAP UP**

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