

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, December 3, 2023 (Advent 1)

Isaiah 64:1-9

Discussion Starters

1. How would you describe the tone of the prayer offered in these verses? What does that tell you about the emotional state of the prophet? What does that teach you about prayer?
2. What do the images of the dirty rags and shriveled leaf illustrate about the spiritual state of the exiles? How can God ever view "righteous acts" in such a way?
3. In light of their spiritual state, to what truths does the prophet appeal as he asks for God's help? What hope does he have that God might intervene?
4. What does the imagery of the potter and the clay suggest about our relationships with God?

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Discussion Starters

1. What reasons does Paul have for his gratitude?
2. What are the spiritual gifts? Which one(s) do you possess?
3. What does it mean to be "blameless" (v. 8)?
4. What does it mean that God is "faithful" (v. 9)?
5. How have the recipients of this letter been "enriched in every way" (v. 5)?
6. Do you think this expression of gratitude could be offered about you? About our church? Why or why not?

Mark 13:24-37

Discussion Starters

1. Describe the coming of the Son of Man in your own words.
2. What is the lesson of the fig tree?
3. How do you explain the proclamation of verse 30 in light of the fact that we haven't seen an event like the one described in this passage?
4. Who are the "elect" (v. 27)?
5. How can we be "on guard" and "alert" as described in this passage?

WRAP UP

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