

# What if there is PEACE?

## RHYTHMS

*ISAIAH 11:1-10*

● *In a bigger group, divide into 3-5 people to share:*

**Gratitude** - God promises peace even in the middle of brokenness. What's one thing you can give thanks to God for this week?

- How have you experienced God's peace even in the midst of challenging circumstances?

**Challenge** - We live between two advents. Although Jesus began a kingdom of peace at the first advent we wait for its complete fulfillment at his second advent.

- What current burden is blocking the peace that Jesus wants to offer you? Pray for those things as a group.

**Confess** - "...the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" – Isa 11.9b. For God's people, knowing the Lord was more than acquiring information but was connected to a deeper intimate relationship with him.

- Where in your life do you need to allow the knowledge of the Lord become more personal to you?

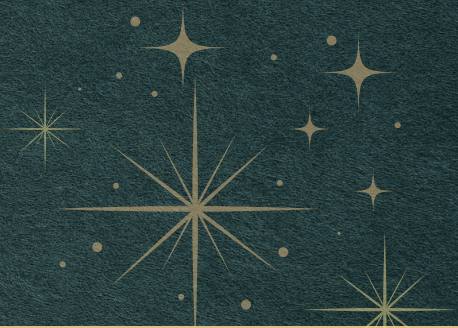
**Bless** - Reflect on how God shown blessing to you or through you this past week.

- In what ways have others been a blessing to you or you this past week? Who has God put on your path that you could be a bless to this week?
- What family, neighbors, or co-workers is God bringing to your mind that you could invite to church during the advent season?

**Prayer** - Bring each other's gratitude and challenges before the Lord together



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## ● LISTEN - ISAIAH 11:1–10

### What if real peace can be found in the *midst* of brokenness?

The context of Isaiah 11 is not calm or stability, but political collapse, spiritual apathy, and national trauma. And yet *right there*, God announces a coming King—a shoot from the stump of Jesse—who will bring a kingdom of true peace.

### The Stump & the Shoot – Peace in the Middle of Chaos

Pastor Dan described Israel as being in one of the darkest and most broken moments in their history.

- Where in your life right now does the world feel more like a **stump** than a flourishing tree? What part of Isaiah’s picture of the Messiah offers you hope in that place?

### The Spirit-Empowered King

Isaiah describes the coming King as being filled with the Spirit of the Lord—wisdom, counsel, strength, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord.

- What stood out to you about Jesus choosing to live as a fully human life as fully God through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit? (cf. John 5:19-20; 30, 6:38, 8:28-29)
- How does His example encourage you that you can follow Jesus because the same Holy Spirit that empowered and led him lives in you?

### Peace Deeper Than Circumstances

Isaiah shows a peace that is bigger than the absence of trouble—wolves and lambs together, children safe near danger, all creation restored.

- When you think of “peace,” what comes to mind? How is biblical peace (shalom) different from how our culture defines peace?
- Where have you been tempted to look for peace *apart* from Christ?
- Isaiah’s vision ends with the whole earth filled with the knowledge of the Lord. How does knowing the end of the story help you walk through your current challenges?

