

CONNECT GUIDE

A Just Ruler

Isaiah 11:1-10 , Romans 15: 4-13

WELCOME

As we continue Advent, think about or discuss as a group what you have been or are expectant of?

WORSHIP

Read Isaiah 11:1-10 together. Thank God for his work and pray for each other, the church, and the world.

WORD

Read: Isaiah 11:1-10

1. What stood out to you in the passage?
2. What challenged or encouraged you in the sermon on Sunday?
3. The New Testament describes 'the shoot' or 'branch' as the Messiah, Jesus (Romans 15:12). What stories, teachings, or sayings come to mind as you consider the qualities of vv 2-5? Which of these qualities of Jesus has particularly made a difference in your life?
4. This picture of the Messiah's reign is both deeply personal and social. What would a new society look like under the Messiah's reign (be specific)?
5. How would you like to grow under the Lordship of Christ?

Read: Matthew 3:1-12

1. How would you paraphrase John's message for people today? What is the kingdom of heaven?
2. How is repentance connected to your experience of salvation? Of daily sanctification? Where does repentance to God and/or others, still need to happen in your life?

Read: Romans 15:4-13

1. Why does Paul put so much emphasis on bearing with others, pleasing neighbor above ourselves, accepting others, being in unity? What have been your challenges in following this word? And your joys?
2. What types of people do you find hard to bear the burdens of and accept? What is God's encouragement to you with those people?
3. Who do you need to pray 15:13 right now? What parts of this prayer do you need right now?

WITNESS

What is one way over the next weeks that as a group, or individually could work for God's kingdom to come?

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." –Henri Nouwen