



Discussion Guide: He Will Bring Joy

Passage: Isaiah 35:1-10

Summary: Though Christmas is supposed to be “merry” and full of “good cheer”, it’s often short-lived. Gifts lay forgotten, family visits bring up old hurts, the tree turns brown, and let’s be honest...eggnog is really only good the first time you drink it. We desire joy and happiness, but it seems fleeting and hard to sustain. Yet, Isaiah, a prophet who so often warned of judgment, spoke of a day when even the desert would rejoice and God’s people would come singing with “unending joy”. How do we get some of that!? This Christmas, we’ll see how Jesus brings a “joy and gladness” that overwhelms us.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the main point of this passage?
2. What is the Spirit drawing your attention to in the passage?
3. How do you struggle to find joy this Christmas? Are you experiencing personal suffering or pain? Do you see a world that is hurting? Do you have a sense of feeling in “exile”?
4. How does Christmas bring personal healing, restoration to our world, and a road home to God?
5. What next steps can you take to cultivate joy this Christmas? (The 4 encouragements were: 1) Slow Down, 2) Be Aware of How You Distract Yourself, 3) Practice Gratitude, and 4) Make Your Home With God through Abiding Practices.)

Take some time to pray for one another in smaller groups.