

## SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 11:1-11

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—3 and he will  
delight in the fear of the Lord.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the  
earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.  
6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.  
7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like  
the ox.  
8 The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.  
9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.  
10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him,  
and his resting place will be glorious. 11 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to  
reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from  
Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. **Read the verses above.** What stands out to you and why? What questions does this passage raise in your mind? (Feel free to wrestle with these questions together)
2. How is Christian hope different from optimism that things will work out?
3. What or who are you putting your hope in besides Jesus? What false hopes might God be inviting you to shed?
4. How does the story of Jesus speak to your trials and pain? How can we invite Jesus to be our companion while we suffer and wait for things to be made right?
5. What is one way you need hope to energize you so that you can stay invested in this world?
  - a. If there’s time: talk about someone you know personally whose life is animated and energized by hope. What difference does hope make in their lives?