

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

December 4, 2022

The Peaceable Kingdom

Advent

[Isaiah 11.1-10](#)

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

REFLECTION

Isaiah, continuing to help God's people imagine a world better than its current state, gives us the image of a shoot growing out of a stump (v. 1). This idea of a family tree provides hope and the reminder that God is at work today through broken people. Remembering that Christ was born into a line of families who had their share of issues, imagine your own family tree and history. ***How has our covenant-keeping God bowed to your own family, through fallen kingdoms and strife?***

This passage speaks of an unimaginable peace, described poetically by Isaiah as a peaceable kingdom (v. 6-9). The Messiah's reign would usher in a world without worry, in which the child can play over the adder's den (v. 8). Though our lived experience looks nothing like this, we can reconcile the promise of peaceful rest in the midst of a world wrecked by violence and destruction. ***How are glimpses of the inbreaking of the kingdom of God encouraging to your faith, as we live in the "now and not yet?"***

As we journey through Advent, may we be mindful of how hope can emerge in the most unexpected of places, as it did from the near-lifeless stump as the new descendant of David. God's shalom is more than the absence of conflict, or a positive state of being but rather the true peace that we have been given through Jesus ([Rom. 5.1](#)). The candle of peace burns for us in exactly the places where peace seems impossible. ***What is currently robbing you of peace? Pray about how the Lord might want to speak into this situation and cause a stubborn green shoot to come back to life.***