

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide

Series: **“Preparing for the Coming of the King”**

Message Title: **“New Life from an Old Source”**

Sermon Text: **Isaiah 11:1-5 (p. 732)**; Gospel Text: **John 1:9-18 (p. 1127)**; New Testament Text: **Acts 3:17-21 (p. 1159)**.

Read **Isaiah 11:1-5 (p. 732)** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Isaiah 11:1 (p. 732)**. What does the stump mentioned in **v. 1** symbolize regarding Israel and Judah?

Who is Jesse?

When we read, “*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,*” what is that telling us about the promised Messiah?

V. 1 tells us, “*A branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*” What sort of fruit would the Messiah’s ministry produce?

2. Read **Isaiah 11:2 (p. 732)**. What is this telling us about the Messiah?

Why was it necessary for the Messiah to walk in this power?

What did this model for mankind—at least to those who were paying attention?

3. Read **Isaiah 11:3 (p. 732)**. What is the *fear of the Lord*?

Why would the Messiah delight in the fear of the Lord?

Why will it not be necessary for the Messiah *to judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear?*

Why should that knowledge create in us a desire to better obey God?

4. Read **Isaiah 11:4 (p. 732)**. Do you think this verse speaks to the Messiah's first or second coming? Explain.

Does this verse make the Messiah seem meek or powerful?

5. Read **Isaiah 11:5 (p. 732)**. How would you define *righteousness*?

How would you define *faithfulness*?

Why would *righteousness* and *faithfulness* be such important virtues for the Messiah to possess?

6. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **John 1:9-18** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. To whom is **John 1:9** referring?
 2. What do you think prevented *the world from knowing Him*?
 3. In **John 1:11**, who are *his own—his own people*?
 4. Why do you think so many Jews failed to recognize the Messiah?
 5. Read **John 1:12-13** aloud again. Have you received the gift of Jesus into your life? If not, what's holding you back?
 6. With what does John tell us in **John 1:14** the Messiah will be full?
 7. What was John the Baptist saying in **John 1:15**?
 8. When you read **John 1:16** do you feel like you've received multiple gifts of Christ's grace in your life? If not, what do you think is preventing you from having this experience?
 9. In **John 1:17**, John is speaking of the Old and New Covenant. What exactly is he saying?
 10. Name some ways Jesus made His Father known to the people of earth.
- II. Next read **Acts 3:17-21**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Why do you think Peter makes it a habit to inform the Jews that they killed their Lord & Savior?
 2. **Acts 3:18** reveals something positive that came out of this. What was it?
 3. If you were a Jew and you heard **Acts 3:19-21** spoken to you, how would you feel?
 4. What parts of those verses speak most powerfully to you?
 5. What is **Acts 3:21** telling us?
 6. Is there a message for each of us in that verse?
- III. Now read **Isaiah 11:1-5**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. What does the stump mentioned in **v. 1** symbolize regarding Israel and Judah?
 2. Who is Jesse?
 3. When we read, "*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,*" what is that telling us about the promised Messiah?

4. **V. 1** tells us, “*A branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*” What sort of fruit would the Messiah’s ministry produce?
5. Read **Isaiah 11:2**. What is this telling us about the Messiah?
6. Why was it necessary for the Messiah to walk in this power?
7. What did this model for mankind—at least to those who were paying attention?
8. Read **Isaiah 11:3**. What is the *fear of the Lord*?
9. Why would the Messiah delight in the fear of the Lord?
10. Why will it not be necessary for the Messiah *to judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear*?
11. Why should that knowledge create in us a desire to better obey God?
12. Read **Isaiah 11:4**. Do you think this verse speaks to the Messiah’s first or second coming? Explain.
13. Does this verse make the Messiah seem meek or powerful?
14. Read **Isaiah 11:5**. How would you define *righteousness*?
15. How would you define *faithfulness*?
16. Why would *righteousness* and *faithfulness* be such important virtues for the Messiah to possess?