

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Deep Longings”
Complement to lesson on 12/12/21 – “Joy”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What Christmas tradition do you look forward to most and why?
2. Share a time you experienced joy in that past year.

MEMORIZE – 1 Thessalonians 1: 9-10

“... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come”

READ – Isaiah 35:1-10

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read these passages?
 - a. What sticks out to you?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
 - c. How about anything you don't understand? Can anyone gathered (or someone you know) help provide clarity?
2. How do these verses bear witness about Jesus?
3. Read Isaiah chapter 34. Compare and contrast the highway spoken of in Isaiah 35 and the experience of those on the highway with the lands and strongholds spoken of in Isaiah 34 and the experience of the people there.
4. Read Luke 7: 18-35. How is this connected to Isaiah 35? How does this demonstrate that Jesus is the fulfilment of the prophets?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Charades

There are many examples of joy spoken of in chapter 35 of Isaiah. Take time to list them all out on separate strips of paper. You should be able to identify at least 10 examples. After writing them down, fold up the paper and put them in a basket. Take turns removing a paper and acting it out while others guess. Remember, no talking, just acting. Go through all ten and then answer the following:

1. How did acting out these examples bring a deeper meaning/understanding to the promise given?
2. Identify areas in your life where you are longing for some of these promises to be experienced, either by yourself or others.
3. Spend time in prayer asking the LORD to move in powerful ways consistent with his promises but also ask him to let you see the ways he is already moving in these ways

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Joy to the World - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqxMvvptf9I>

O Come O Come Emmanuel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=draHA_9MS18

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZeJKsko14E>

O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ-N27N8iQ4>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

May you know and experience the joy of the LORD as you seek Him, trust Him and follow Him this week. As you go, bring the good news and be a source of joy to those where you live, work and play.