



SERMON
DISCUSSION
GUIDE

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Lighting the Path Remember Love

Read and Reflect

1. Read Isaiah 11:1-9. Isaiah speaks of a "stump" (Jesse's lineage) that looked dead and forgotten. In your own life or in the world today, where do you see "stumps"—areas that feel hopeless, empty, or beyond repair?
2. Why is it significant that the Savior comes as a "shoot" (small, fragile, new) rather than a mighty, fully grown cedar? How does this change your perspective on how God works in "bleak" situations?
3. Look at Isaiah 11:2-3. Which of the six attributes of the Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord) do you feel you need most in your "wasteland" right now?

Explore and Discuss

4. Jesus is the "Branch" who is both fully human (from the stump of Jesse) and fully God. How does his humanity make his love more relatable to your specific struggles?
5. Verses 6-9 describe natural enemies living in peace. Is there a "wolf and lamb" relationship in your life—a conflict or a person you find it impossible to love—where you need the miracle of God's love?
6. Verse 9 says the earth will be "full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." How does knowing God's character change the way you look at the "wasteland" of the current world news?
7. If love is "incarnated and embodied," how can you embody the love of Christ to someone else this week who is currently living in a "wasteland"?

Closing Prayer

- As we wait for Christmas, what is one "stump" in your life that you want to surrender to God, asking Him to bring a "fresh green shoot" of love out of it?

This is the last sermon discussion guide provided for 2025. The guide will start again with the new sermon series on January 4, 2026.