



MIND  
session page

## Imagine

### Isaiah 11:1-10 | Session 11.49

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- In many instances, the full meaning of a passage is hard to grasp from a single translation. Having a few different versions available may help the group understand and apply today's passage.
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

#### Context

Start by asking:

- What typically keeps you up at night when you have trouble sleeping?
- Why is it that some people sleep well while others don't?
- When you stop to think about it, what does the word "peace" really mean?
- Why do you think people seem to desire peace so much?
- How would we recognize peace if we really had it?

## Content

Read Isaiah 11:1-10 and watch the Bible background video. Now that we've seen today's passage, let's look at what comes before it. Have someone read aloud chapter 1 (or at least the first 15 verses) and ask:

- Why do you think it was so important for Isaiah to state that the promised Messiah was to come from the "stock of Jesse?"
- Given that the "spirit of the Lord" was to have so many dimensions, why is "fear of the Lord" the one where his delight centered?
- How do you feel about the idea that the Messiah was set to decide for the meek of the earth, regardless of the evidence placed before him?
- What does it mean to "judge with righteousness?"
- Which of the various images of peace in this passage do you find most appealing and why?
- If you could add a modern image of peace, where things you don't expect to go together suddenly do, what would you choose?go together suddenly do, what would you choose?

## Closure

Continue by asking your group:

- What does it say about us that our most compelling images of peace are derived from what can be called "flights of imagination?"
- In what ways does imagination play a part in our faith, and why?
- What are the most positive and negative dreams that pull us forward or hold us back?
- From where do our dreams of peace, or our images of what it's supposed to be like, come?
- How might sharing our dreams for peace help others who might have similar dreams?
- At what points do you think this Christmas might bring us closer to peace?

Close with a prayer.

**Writer: Jon Parks**



# CURRENT

session page

## Imagine

### Isaiah 11:1-10 | Session 11.49

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

#### Context

Read this piece by Dan Rather on [how he recharges from information overload](#) and remind the group that We now live in constant information overload. We have news 24/7 and what was the main story this morning won't be the top story tonight. We have at our fingertips constant opinions and disagreements on social media. We are so entrenched on sides of debates that we quit talking to each other. Ask:

- How do you get along with those who may disagree with you?
- What do you think it takes to find interpersonal peace in the world we live in today?

- How does peace help you?
- What part does faith play in finding such peace?

## **Content**

Read [Isaiah 11:1-10](#) and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What is it about the leader Isaiah describes that seems different than what we look for today as a leader?
- How does one judge “with righteousness” as opposed to some other way?
- As you read the imagery Isaiah shares, which image is most appealing and why?
- In what ways do you see bits of this peaceable kingdom today?
- In what ways is leadership important in setting the culture of a nation or a church?

## **Closure**

Listen to [Casting Crowns sing “Peace on Earth”](#) and ask:

- Which image from this song most struck you and why?
- When we talk about the larger theme of “peace on earth,” what do we really mean?
- As we talk about peace, in what ways do we as citizens help set the tone in our nation?
- How do we as Christians set the tone for how Christianity and the church is viewed, in light of the universal desire for peace?
- What kinds of things can we do to better bring about the peace that we seek, either between individuals, tribes, or countries?

Close with a prayer that ends something like "Prince of Peace, may we learn to be people of peace and light in your name. Amen."

**Writer: Crystal Shepherd**



# CONVERSATIONS

session page

## Imagine

### Isaiah 11:1-10 | Session 11.49

#### Before the Session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- *Listen to the Faithelement podcast for this week before the session!*
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

#### Context

Start by reminding the group about Bert's introduction, based on family stories about his Uncle Bill and stumps, as the topics relate to Peace. Continue by asking:

- When you think of a perfect world, what do you imagine that would be like?
- What leads us to stop being as imaginative as we were as children?
- Assuming we do, where do we see our imaginations at work once we grow up?
- How can we do things that we can't first imagine doing?
- In what ways is imagination a part of a healthy faith?

## Content

Read [Isaiah 11:1-10](#) and watch the Bible Background Video for this session before asking:

- What most stands out to you about this passage and why?
- How do you feel about the concept of judging by things other than the facts in evidence, as this passage seems to say Jesus will do?
- How does one decide things "with equity for the meek?"
- What does "righteousness" and "faithfulness" mean in the context of this passage?
- If Isaiah was to write this passage for today's audience, what examples of unexpected cooperation might he cite?

## Closure

Share the ["Free Solo 360" video](#) (Note, this video is even more amazing if you watch in on a computer and realize that you can move the camera around!)

- How could someone imagine their way through successfully doing something like this?
- What do we typically imagine as we play our days or more extended periods of our future?
- If you could imagine world peace, how would you describe it?
- What would a more "fair" economic or healthcare system look like?
- In what ways might we extend our imaginations to the point where they benefit others?
- How can you imagine that God will bring peace through this Advent season?

Close with a prayer.



MEDIA  
session page

## Imagine

### Isaiah 11:1-10 | Session 11.49

#### Before the Session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

#### Context

Play the Imagine video (You may wish to find the longer version of the song for your group) and ask:

- How many of you were alive when John Lennon was shot?
- What kind of message did the shooter seem to convey about Lennon's view of peace? Can his image of peace actually happen?
- Why do you think we long for that?
- What causes this song to seem timeless and treasured in the music world?
- How is it possible to truly imagine/visualize peace as a reality vs everyone seeming to fight like cats and dogs?

## Content

Read [Isaiah 11:1-10](#) before watching the Bible Background Video. Ask:

- What does this vision of Isaiah sound like to you?
- What do you think it meant to original hearers?
- How well do you think the ruler described here embodies “greatness” and why?
- What is a leader supposed to bring to the people who are led?
- How possible or practical is this vision of a peaceable kingdom in Isaiah’s day or today?
- Why do we need a vision or a goal to achieve greatness as we live in the “already, not yet” time?
- In what ways does this passage relate to your dreams and the dreams of others around you?
- What does peace look like in your dreams?

## Closure

Continue by asking:

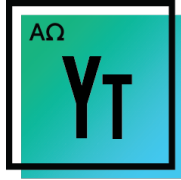
- Since everyone seems to dream of peace, why is it so hard to find?
- Isaiah has a vision of natural enemies in the animal kingdom getting along peacefully so what can we do to be more peaceful with each other?

Play the [What If We Could See Other's Hearts Like God Does clip](#) and ask:

- Why is it not easy to look at things from other’s perspectives?
- With whose perspective do you most struggle and why?
- How is putting yourself in someone else’s place a good step in bringing God’s peaceable Kingdom to earth?

Close in prayer.

**Writer: Jon Self**



# YOUTH

session page

## Imagine

### Isaiah 11:1-10 | Session 11.49

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Listen to the Faithelement podcast for this session.
- Provide pens and paper (See Context).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

#### Intro

Play the Lioness and Oryx and/or the Dog and Cat video and ask:

- Why would someone make a video where these animals get along so well?
- Why do we expect these animals to fight or for the stronger one to hunt the other one vs cuddling with it?
- How is this like or unlike your world?
- What would it be like in a world where even predators and prey are friends?

## Context

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen and tell the group:

*This is an exercise in peacemaking. For the next five minutes, I want you to spend a little time talking with each other in order to determine who in the group is most different from you. go ahead and list whatever differences you find between yourself and the other person, but by the end of the time, you need to pair off with as opposite a person as you can. Please bear in mind that weight differences of fewer than ten pounds, height differences of a couple of inches, and things like that are not really much of a difference.*

After making sure that everyone understands what to do, start the process. Warn everyone when they only have a minute left to make sure they get paired up. If you have an odd number of people, you might have to form a triad or pair someone up with an adult leader. Once the pairs are formed, call time and continue by telling the pairs that they have another five minutes to come up with as long a list as possible of all the things they have in common, bearing in mind that minor things don't really count they are all humans, for instance.

Once that five minutes is up, call time again and ask:

- Which pair was most different from each other and how?
- How easy was it to discover the differences between you and someone else and how did you go about doing it?
- Who found they had the most things in common and how?
- How did you go about finding the things you had in common?
- What are some non-physical that you think most people in the group would have in common and why?
- How do the differences and commonalities we found in this group compare to real life and why?
- Some people complain that people focus too much on their differences to see what they have in common. What do you think of that and why?

## Content

Read [Isaiah 11:1-10](#), then watch the Bible Background Video before asking the group:

- What does it mean to say that someone's "delight is in respect for the Lord?"
- This passage seems to be saying that Jesus will decide the future in favor of people who are poor and meek, despite any evidence he might see or hear. How do you feel about that?
- Why is it important to show that Jesus will bring natural enemies together in the future?
- How do you think he will do that?
- What should we do in order to prepare for the world that is described in this passage?

## Closure

Play [Come Together](#) (Not for people who might get seizures!) and remind the group that this song along with others by this group, has been popular for over 50 years. Many of the more famous songs they have performed are based on themes of peace and togetherness. Ask:

- What do you think of the video and why?
- Why do you think the Beatles' music has been so popular over the years especially their songs about peace?
- What are some other songs about peace that are familiar to you and why do you remember them?
- Since so many people say they want peace, why do you think it's so hard to come by?
- While we're not all famous musicians, what are some things that we might be able to do that could promote peace?
- How does Jesus figure into our hopes for peace?

Close with a prayer.



MIX  
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## Imagine

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#### Context (From the Media Session Page)

Play the Imagine video (You may wish to find the longer version of the song for your group) and ask:

- How many of you were alive when John Lennon was shot?
- What kind of message did the shooter seem to convey about Lennon's view of peace? Can his image of peace actually happen?
- Why do you think we long for that?
- What causes this song to seem timeless and treasured in the music world?
- How is it possible to truly imagine/visualize peace as a reality vs everyone seeming to fight like cats and dogs?

## **Content (From the Mind Session Page)**

Read [Isaiah 11:1-10](#) and watch the Bible background video. Now that we've seen today's passage, let's look at what comes before it. Have someone read aloud chapter 1 (or at least the first 15 verses) and ask:

- Why do you think it was so important for Isaiah to state that the promised Messiah was to come from the "stock of Jesse?"
- Given that the "spirit of the Lord" was to have so many dimensions, why is "fear of the Lord" the one where his delight centered?
- How do you feel about the idea that the Messiah was set to decide for the meek of the earth, regardless of the evidence placed before him?
- What does it mean to "judge with righteousness?"
- Which of the various images of peace in this passage do you find most appealing and why?
- If you could add a modern image of peace, where things you don't expect to go together suddenly do, what would you choose?

## **Closure (from the Conversations Session page)**

Share the ["Free Solo 360" video](#) (Note, this video is even more amazing if you watch in on a computer and realize that you can move the camera around!)

- How could someone imagine their way through successfully doing something like this?
- What do we typically imagine as we play our days or more extended periods of our future?
- If you could imagine world peace, how would you describe it?
- What would a more "fair" economic or healthcare system look like?
- In what ways might we extend our imaginations to the point where they benefit others?
- How can you imagine that God will bring peace through this Advent season?

Close with a prayer.