



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 faithement.net.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithement 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