

Deepening Our Faith Journey

Week #11: November 22, 2015

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Faithful and Holy One, let new understanding spring forth within us. Let a new spirit spring forth from us, one in which you will delight. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading. *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.* (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Study: Study the reading and consider the background. The words of Isaiah recount an honest assessment of the state of God's vineyard. All of the tools of the gardener have been brought to bear: watering and weeding, amending the soil, judicious pruning. As Isaiah speaks, it seems that these have been insufficient. This is not a pleasant planting: the vineyard is a wreck. God seems content to let it be overrun by chaos. But the promises are true. They will not fail. The day will come when true growth will begin once again.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5, *Isaiah's Vineyard Song*

Monday, Isaiah 1:1-20, *The Wickedness of Judah*

Tuesday, Isaiah 2:1-4, *The Future House of God*

Wednesday, Isaiah 2:5-22, *Judgment*

Thursday, Isaiah 6:1-13, *A Vision of God in the Temple*

Friday, Isaiah 7:1-25, *Isaiah Reassures King Ahaz*

Saturday, Isaiah 9:1-7, *The Righteous Reign of the Coming King*

How were God's people like a vineyard gone wild?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

In what ways is your community like a wild vineyard? In what ways is it producing good fruit?

What gifts or talents has God given you that enable you to produce good fruit for the world?

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Use some available fruits and veggies to make juice (with a juicer) or a smoothie (with a blender). Pay attention to how good fruits and veggies fuel your body. Discuss ways you can produce good fruit with your talents or gifts.

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God produce good fruits from within you. Amen.