



Await
Awaiting His Peace
Isaiah 11:1–10

Waiting can be one of the most exciting and simultaneously difficult times in our lives. Consider pregnancy. The longer you wait with child the more difficult it gets, not to mention the pain of labor and delivery. It's difficult to wait for the child you've wanted to hold for so long too. But it's exciting as well. With every day that passes you know you're closer to holding your brand new child. This kind of waiting characterized the people of Israel. They awaited a savior, experiencing both the difficulty and joy of waiting. When Jesus was born everything changed. Now, today, we await as well. We wait through the pain of suffering and evil, but we wait with confident joy, knowing Jesus will return.

While we wait, look to see where the kingdom is present and partner with Jesus.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Isaiah 11:1–10

- 1** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
 - 2** And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 - 3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
 - 4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
 - 5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
 - 6** The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
 - 7** The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 - 8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
 - 9** They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
 - 10** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him
shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.
- What do you tend to do when you wait? Do you find what you do to be useful or a waste of time?

- Read 2 Samuel 7:12–16. What promise does God make to David? How is this promise connected to Isaiah 11?
- How does it help you to wait knowing Jesus has already come once?
- If we need to look for Jesus' reign, we have to know what it looks like? What does Jesus' reign look like in our world today? Where and when do you see it?
- Jesus is said to have righteousness and faithfulness (Isaiah 11:5). How would you describe these two qualities? Why are they important for Jesus to have?
- Why do you think we're called by God to partner in Jesus' reign?
- Tim Keller says biblical justice is characterized by radical generosity, universal equality, life-changing advocacy, and asymmetrical responsibility.¹ Which of these come easy, and which ones are more difficult? Why?
- What are ways currently we can partner with Jesus' reign? These could be things we're doing or can do.
- Once again in this Advent season, we're told to wait! What can make waiting difficult for you?
- We tend to view waiting as passive, but Scripture paints waiting as active. What does it look like to actively wait?
- As you close, pray this prayer we prayed together on Sunday.

Father, we thank you that your Kingdom will not only come but is here. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, your Kingdom has arrived.

This Advent season may your Holy Spirit give us eyes to see and ears to hear where your Kingdom is advancing. Empower us to partner in Jesus' reign where we see it and hear it.

As we partner with you, help us to wait with hopefulness, trusting that just as your Kingdom has come once, it will come in fulness one day.

We pray with the saints everywhere: "Come, Lord Jesus."

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

¹For more on these characteristics of biblical justice, read Tim Keller's article here: <https://gospelinlife.com/article/justice-in-the-bible/>