

Fulfilled

HIS PROMISE KEPT. OUR LONGING MET.

OPENING UP

Have you ever received a gift that you didn't use at first, or weren't particularly excited about when you opened, but then later ended up using all the time? Share more about that gift with your group.

TEXT**Jesus the Branch | Matthew 2:23**

²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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,

(to continue reading vv. 5-10, please turn to the ESV Bible)

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: Jesus is the Promised King.

1. Royal Lineage. (Isaiah 11:1)
2. Righteous Rule. (Isaiah 11:2-9)
3. Universal Reign. (Isaiah 11:10)

DISCUSSION



- Matthew 2:23 references how Jesus being raised in Nazareth was a fulfillment of the prophets. Why do you think Matthew found it important to emphasize that Jesus was fulfilling prophecies?
- Isaiah 11:1 refers to the coming Messiah (Jesus) as a “shoot from the stump of Jesse.” What does the imagery of a shoot growing out of a stump bring to mind? How does this picture of “new life” give you a deeper understanding of what Jesus came to earth to do?
- Jesus came from the Royal line of David to be the ultimate Righteous Ruler. Isaiah 11:2-5 describes what that rule would look like. Reread that passage. What descriptors stick out to you? Which ones resonate with you? Why?
- Unlike David and the other kings before him, Jesus came not to reign over a single nation, but all people. What is the significance of Jesus’ universal reign? How does his universal reign give him authority to be a savior to all peoples in all nations?
- Matthew shows us how Jesus is the Promised King from the scriptures. His kingdom is open to all! Have you accepted Christ’s invitation to join the Kingdom of God? If so, how has it changed your life?

LIFE CHALLENGE



During Christmas, it’s easy to get so caught up in the decorations, the food, and the gifts that we can forget the reason we celebrate in the first place! Take time this week, to remember that we celebrate Christmas because of the ultimate gift we were given when God sent us King Jesus to bring His kingdom to earth. How can you be praying for God’s kingdom to come into your world this week? In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus teaches us to pray saying “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Look back at the description of God’s kingdom in Isaiah 11:4-10 and discuss actions you can take with your friends and neighbors this week that will demonstrate the heart of King Jesus in your world.

CLOSING PRAYER



God, thank you for giving us Jesus! Help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas. We give gifts to others because you first gave to us the ultimate gift in your Son. Thank you, that your rule has no border or bound. Thank you, that all are welcome in your kingdom. Use us to share your truth with the world. Amen.