

CONNECTION GROUP QUESTIONS – DECEMBER 14, 2025

Title: The Joy of the Lord

Synopsis: Isaiah 35 points to a joyful return to Zion and the reversals God brings—turning sorrow into joy, weakness into strength, and death into life. As followers of Jesus, we are called to reflect this joy and participate in God’s work of reconciliation and reversal in our world.

Scripture: Isaiah 35

Icebreaker

1. Would you rather relive your happiest day every year or always experience a small, unexpected joy each day?
 2. What’s a hobby, activity, or ritual that reliably lifts your mood or brings a sense of joy?
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Read Isaiah 35

Background Questions

3. What was happening in Israel at the time that Isaiah originally delivered this message?
Leader Notes:
 - Israel was enjoying great prosperity and power.
 - The Assyrian empire was conquering the ancient Near East.
 - In the near future, Assyria would conquer Israel, destroy the land, and take the remaining people into exile.
 4. How do you imagine this message would have sounded to the original people hearing it?
Leader Notes:
 - Some would have trouble believing that destruction was coming.
 - Some would find comfort in the hope of restoration.
 - Some would struggle to believe that a good future was possible.
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Meaning Questions

5. What are some of the reversals Isaiah talks about in this chapter?

Leader Notes:

- Examples: Desert to lush and fertile land, dryness to water, weakness to strength, injury to health, sorrow to joy.

6. How does this passage in Isaiah relate to the birth of Jesus?

Leader Notes:

- Jesus was another reversal: God coming to earth to save people.
 - Jesus accomplished these things with His life: bringing abundance, life, health, and joy.
 - Jesus became the highway that enables people to return to God.
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Personal Application Questions

7. What are some of your favorite stories or movies where you see a main character experience a reversal (like Scrooge or the Grinch)?

8. How does focusing on God's reversals change the way you approach challenges or injustices in your community or world?

Examples: Choosing hope over despair, seeking reconciliation instead of revenge, working for justice instead of giving up.

9. Where do you see sorrow, brokenness, or difficulty in your life that could experience a reversal through God's joy?

Examples: Personal struggles, broken relationships, grief, disappointment.

10. How can you be a part of bringing joy or reversal to someone else's life this week?

Examples: Encouraging someone, reconciling a relationship, helping someone in need, offering forgiveness.