



Life Group Discussion Questions

Sermon Series: Anticipating the Savior

Sermon Title: Branch

Sermon Date: 12-16-18

Gospel Gain: Jesus fulfilled the prophesy of the branch and set the standard for us to follow.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

Share examples of people who rose to greatness from simple or difficult beginnings. What inspires you about their story? What can we learn from their story?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

The prophet Isaiah wrote about what to look for in the coming Messiah. His descriptions created an anticipation about the Savior. Today's description is a Branch.

Read: *Isaiah 11:1-3*

What are your initial thoughts when you hear that the Messiah is described as a branch from the stump of Jesse? Describe the images that come to mind with this description.

Jesus is the branch. How did Jesus come from humble beginnings? Give examples of how humility was on display in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Read: *Luke 2:52*

What does this tell us about the life of Jesus? How is Jesus a person who rose to greatness from humble beginnings?

Read: *Isaiah 11:2*

Look at the DNA that this branch would possess. Discuss what each of these character traits would mean in the life of the Messiah...

- God's Spirit will rest on Him
- He will possess wisdom and understanding
- He will be a counselor
- He will be powerful
- He will have superior knowledge

Give examples of how these character traits were on display in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Read: *John 17:3-4*

Jesus is praying here and preparing for the cross. What statements of significance is Jesus sharing? How does this passage relate back to the prophesy made by Isaiah?

Read: *Isaiah 11:3*

What does it mean to delight in the fear of the Lord? What would that mean for us to live like this as well?

Read: Matthew 26:39

Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane and praying about the cross. How does this verse remind us of the obedience and sacrifice of Jesus?

Getting Real with One Another (Accessibility)

What about Jesus being the branch, rising from humble beginnings and saving the world, inspire your life today?

Group Prayer Time (Supplication)

Pray for God to show you who you could invite to Christmas Eve services at Oakwood.

Pray for the Dare to Care Initiative to have life changing impact.

Pray that Oakwood Church would continue to develop a passion for God and compassion for people.