**12.02.18 - Advent - Christian**

**For Advent:**

If you’re not in a small group, or if your group is taking a break this month, feel free to use these as personal devotional questions, or with your family or housemates.

Leader Prep Section

* Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group. No need to do all the questions if you don’t have time!
* Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
* When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

**Goal / Focus: Tree of Jesse. Jesus is the fulfillment of hopes expressed in the Hebrew scriptures.**

**Hook** - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

* What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday’s sermon?
* What is the most fierce animal you’ve seen in real life?

Background / Reading

**Read: Isaiah 11:1-9**

* Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? (Remind those who share that we’ll likely return to their ideas in our discussion!)

**Book** - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

* What are some character qualities found in the Messiah in vs.1-5? Do any of these qualities surprise you or stand out to you? (Have someone write them down - you’ll come back to them later)
* What is the theme of verses 6 through 9?

**Look** - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

* What does v.3 mean when it says he doesn’t judge by what he see or hears? What does it mean to judge with righteousness and justice instead (v.4)?
* Go back to the first question about the character qualities of the Messiah. Go through each quality and see if your group can think of a time when Jesus exhibited these qualities. (Ex. In v. 4 we learn the Messiah will be a righteous judge, and Jesus exhibits this in his interaction with the woman caught in adultery.)
* How does this image of Jesus fulfill the hopes of those weighed down by woes?

**Took** - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

* In this passage, which quality of Jesus do you connect with most and why?
* How does this image of Jesus portrayed in this passage bring you hope?
* How does this image of Jesus bring hope to people who don’t know him, our city, country, and world? Pray about this!