



# Sermon Discussion Guide




## “The Branch”

Isaiah 11:1-10

Rev. Ray Cortese, December 13 & 14, 2014

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Isaiah 11:1-10. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Discuss the following quote by C.S. Lewis: "Our lifelong nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fantasy, but the truest index of our real situation. And to be at last summoned inside would be glory and the healing of that old ache."
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### THE BRANCH: ITS IDENTITY

- 3 Why did Isaiah say that a shoot would come out of the stump of “Jesse”? Why is this one called both a shoot and a root at the same time?

- 4 God loves to make things out of nothing. How might you consider yourself “a stump”, a nobody whom God has chosen to make a somebody?

#### THE BRANCH: ITS QUALITIES

- 5 Jesus looks out for the poor and contends for the weak and the broken. Do you have any interaction with the poor? How could you contend for the weak and the broken in Citrus County?
- 6 God’s wisdom trumps men’s wisdom. How did Jesus turn worldly wisdom on its head? What was Ray’s advice to those who are hung up on Christianity for intellectual reasons?

#### THE BRANCH: ITS AIM

- 7 How would you describe the world you have always wanted?
- 8 Why should Jesus’ promise to make all things new encourage us in our efforts here and now, rather than make us complacent?

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?