

Discussion Guide

“EXPECTANT: The Boy Is a Sign”

November 27, 2022

Big Idea

 God is with us. The question is, are we with Him. For, if you fail to stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all (Isaiah 7:9b).

Icebreaker

 Judah's anxiety over the threat of invasion in Isaiah chapter 7 is likened to trees shaking in the wind. We can relate to that imagery in our WNY winters! Share a memory from the worst storm (snow, wind, anything) that you recall.

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time together to recap the background, or setting, of Isaiah chapter 7. This was shared before we got into any scriptures during the sermon. For example, what is the situation with the 12 Tribes of Israel? What is Judah worried about? When did all of this take place, approximately?
2. Read Isaiah 7:4-9 (Note: Ephraim is another name for Israel). This reading covers what God says into king Ahaz's and Judah's anxiety or fear. What are some things that God is saying to them that *they need to do*? What are some things that God is declaring to them will happen?
3. Still reflecting on the passages read above, is there a situation in your life where you need to embrace some of what God's words were to Ahaz & Judah? Things like “*Be careful, keep calm, don't be afraid, don't lose heart*”. What is that situation and which of these phrases seem most fitting for the season/situation you find yourself in?
4. Think about the powerful statement: *If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.* Describe what it looks like to not stand firm in one's faith through a difficult life situation and what are some outcomes of that? Describe what it results in when one does not stand firm in their faith as they consider and attempt to deal with their own sin apart from relying on Christ/God?
5. Now turning to an Advent focus, read Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:20-23. Why is God's answer of sending His Son, Jesus, as the solution for our, and the world's, sin issue shocking? What does it communicate to us about God's character, including His level of love for us? What does it communicate to us about how God desires to relate to us? What must we do to receive God's solution?

Concluding Question

 Have someone look up and read the definition of the word EXPECTANT (our Advent Series Title). Why do you think the Preaching & Communication Teams of Revive Wesleyan chose this word to be the title of our Advent series? Is there something you are excited about (expectant of) happening this Christmas that this group could pray together about?

Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer

 -That people can deal with the pressures of higher prices for everything (gas, groceries, products, utilities, etc.) this season.