

# What should we expect of the Christ?

Isaiah 11:1-10

## Welcome (10 mins)

The end of the year, the Christmas holiday, is fast approaching. Is there something you're looking forward to?

## Worship (10 mins)

NOW AND THE FUTURE - Written centuries before the birth of Jesus, this passage looked with excitement toward the coming Messiah. This Jesus that Isaiah prophesied about has already come to us. Isaiah explains what the new creation, the new earth will eventually be like. Listen to this week's song. Spend a moment just praising God for the promise of this wonderful future, this new creation that we will be part of.

SING - One Day (When we all get to heaven) by Matt Redman

Play the lyric video [here](#)

Download the chords [here](#)

## Word (30 mins)

Read Isaiah 11:1-10

Today's prophecy comes from Isaiah 11. It begins, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." And then our text closes, "In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious." Notice that this one who is coming is first called "a shoot from the stump of Jesse," and then he is called "the root of Jesse." Both "shoot" and "root". And so our theme: "The Shoot and the Root of Jesse."

Also, notice that this one who is coming, who is both shoot and root, "shall bear fruit." "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." Shoot, root, and fruit. Isaiah lived 700 years before Christ, but this passage is a prophecy about Christ. Isaiah is saying that the Messiah will be both the shoot and the root of Jesse, and that he will bear abundant fruit. And this fruit will

be a kingdom of life and peace for people around the world, for all of creation, for every one of us here today.

1. What is the character of the Shoot of Jesse, the son of David?
2. How does he rule?
3. What is the peace of the son of David like?
4. How big is his kingdom?

## Wonder (5-10 mins)

Do you notice 7 attributes of Jesus in verse 2? Because He is the vine and we are the branches, these are part of our makeup as Christians too, albeit not as complete as in Jesus! Pray for these divine attributes to be made real in our own lives as Christians, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.

## Witness (5-10 mins)

Isaiah is a master of prose and poetry, and in this passage he uses imagination to convey a Biblical truth. In our current culture how can we use imagination through art and to convey truth? The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis would be one such example. Can you think of other examples? Perhaps you have one of your own to share?

# What should we expect of the Christ? (Part 2)

Micah 5:2-4

## Welcome (10 mins)

Have you had to wait for something that you have been promised? How have you 'waited'? Expectantly, frustratedly, patiently?

## Worship (10 mins)

**HOPE** - When someone asks us about something we desire but are uncertain of we often say, "I hope so!" When it's been a tough week we might go to sleep thinking, "Hopefully next week will be better." Hope isn't just wishful thinking. It is a powerful force when it is founded on the promises of God and the truth of his Word. Some of that hope is described in our passage today. We hope that God will lead us as our

shepherd. We hope that we will live securely. We hope that His greatness will be known by the entire world.

We are entering the season of Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas, and as we do, the hope we celebrate is not just for ourselves. It's for everyone. What do you hope for right now? What do you hope for others?

**SING** - Hope For Everyone (Matt Maher)

Play the lyric video [here](#)

Download the chord chart [here](#) (original key)

**Word** (30 mins)

Read Micah 5:2-4

God is faithful to His people, Israel, even when they go astray and despite their prolonged rebellion against their long-suffering, covenant-keeping God. He remains faithful to His erring children for He promised to send a Kinsman-Redeemer Who would save His people from their sins. And the birthplace of their Messiah was identified as Bethlehem - Ephrathah - the little town of David.

God's Word speaks history into being, years and sometimes centuries before it is acted out on the pages of time, and this insignificant little town in the region of Judah was proclaimed to be the chosen place from where the promised Messiah would come.

1. What is significant about Bethlehem if it's little among Judah?
2. What is so important about the birth of the promised Messiah?
3. How is it comforting to know that the Messiah is our shepherd?
4. The kingdom of the Messiah is universal, how should we view the church and our Christian life?

**Wonder** (5-10 mins)

- In the Hebrew, Bethlehem means 'The house of bread.' Jesus is born there and described as 'the bread of life' - John 6.35 Think about this for a minute - how are you 'feeding' on the Bread of life - being nourished and fed by Jesus? Share a testimony of the

goodness of Jesus which has happened recently in your life.

- Like his ancestor David, who was a shepherd, Jesus is our shepherd. How do you need your heavenly shepherd to lead you, guide you, provide for you, in this Advent season? Pray for one another.

**Witness** (5-10 mins)

How do you 'witness' to others when you have an expectant hope about something? Is there a difference in how you witness about your hope for something in the world, as opposed to your hope in Christ? Reflect and think of ways to witness.

## Who is this man?

Matt 1:1-17

**Welcome** (10 mins)

Imagine someone came for a visit to your house. Think of specific different people. How do your feelings change based on the person? How would your welcome change according to who it is?

**Worship** (10 mins)

THINK - Behind each name in today's passage is a human being, a life, a story of God's activity among his people. The generations described weave together a rich tapestry of the interaction between the Creator and his created children. And those are just a few generations. When we look at the timeline of biblical history, it leaves us in awe of the hand of God. He was at work then, he is at work now, and he will continue to work in the future. In one sense, the Bible is a book that shouts "Come and see what God has done!" and that is exactly what our worship song today proclaims - God's greatest action and his greatest gift.

**SING** - Noel (Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman)

Play the lyric video [here](#)

Download the chord chart [here](#) (original key) or [here](#) (lower key)

**Word** (30 mins)

Read Matthew 1:1-17

It's imperative that we understand that Jesus really lived. He really walked on the earth, He was really born of Mary, He walked, He talked, He was an actual human being.

The Jesus of the Bible existed in real space and time in history. It's also worth noting two more factors about the genealogy:

First, Matthew mentions five women in Jesus' genealogy, which is uncommon in ancient Jewish times. This is perhaps to show that God was working through ordinary people, as well as Old Testament patriarchs and kings, in order to accomplish something extraordinary. The women mentioned were Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Uriah's wife (Bathsheba), and of course, Mary. Also, it's worth noting and clarifying that Matthew did not list Joseph as Jesus' father. Even though Matthew follows Joseph's line, he doesn't actually say that Joseph was his father.

1. Why is genealogy important?
2. How does genealogy help us to know that Jesus is the Messiah?
3. How does it help us to know that Jesus literally walked on this earth?

### Wonder (5-10 mins)

Ponder the fact that we, as Christians, are adopted into Jesus' family. Go around the circle and thank God for one privilege you enjoy as a child of God.

It's amazing to read this family list – both the great, the good and bad are all included! Matthew the disciple, who was the despised tax-collector, Levi, wrote this genealogy of Jesus. There were obviously great heroes of our faith in this line-up – but many awful kings and 'sinners' – among the women listed was a Gentile prostitute. Murder, rape, sexual assault... Tamar was viciously raped and then poorly treated by her family, Bathsheba was forced to break her marriage vows by David. Yet God thinks so highly of them that he chooses them to be in the lineage of Christ our Messiah.

Many of us are embarrassed or ashamed of our family mistakes and flaws.

Pray for your family – that God will forgive, redeem, and pour his love down on them this Christmas.

### Witness (5-10 mins)

Families can bring out the best and the worst in us. As you prepare for extended family time over the holidays, share with the group how they can be praying for you. Pray for the 'three patiences' - with God, with oneself and with one another.