

Community Group Study Guide

Sermon Series - Signposts

Sermon Date - Dec 13

Sermon Passage - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Warm-up:

1. Tell of time someone made you feel special. What was the situation? How did you feel?
2. What is a special role, or position, that you have played in life? What was important or unique about it?

Read Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1. Who does "me" refer to in verse 1?
2. What good news is the prophet bringing to the poor?
3. When you read verses 1b-3, what emotions are stirred up?
4. During times of grief, people would put on sackcloth and cover themselves with ashes. In response to this information, with what will God replace these garments beginning in verse 3?
5. Who do you think is the "they" listed in verses 3b - 4?
6. When looking at verses 1-4, what Gospel stories about the life and ministry of Jesus come to mind?
7. What do verses 8 - 9 say about what is important to God? What does God love? What does God hate? Do we love and hate the same things? Why or why not?
8. In what ways can we fight iniquity?
9. Look at verses 10 and 11. In what way are God's people like a bride? How about a garden?
10. How do you feel about being called a priest (verse 6)? What does it mean to live like a priest this week? What would you change, or do differently?

Read John 1:6-8, 19-28

11. What is the role of John the Baptist as a witness?
12. Why did he testify about the light? What did the light signify? What about the darkness?
13. What questions did the religious leaders ask John the Baptist? What do you think this indicated about the hearts of the religious leaders? Why do you think they asked him these questions?
14. Based on v 22-28, what is John's main role?
15. What do you think is the significance of Baptizing with water versus with the Holy Spirit? What does Baptism mean to you? Why?
16. What was God teaching you through this study? Is there anything in your life you need to change?
17. How can this group encourage and pray for you?