12/14/2025 | Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Has anyone important, such as your boss, ever told you to expect something good or special from them? Did you believe it would come?

READ: Isaiah 11:1 & 53:1-2

FOCUS: We can have faith in Jesus' rulership.

OBSERVE:

- In the book of Isaiah, we read about the stump of Jesse, from king David's line. The description is akin to a dead tree. Isaiah says that a shoot (new life) will be coming from that stump.
- But how can we believe it? How do we believe that new life is going to come from something that is dead: our dead finances, dying relationships or declining health?
- We can commit to a relationship with the Lord, and allowing him, daily, to change the way we think, what we say and how we behave. Essentially, we allow the Almighty to permeate our daily existence. (Read Hebrews 11:1 and Hebrews 11:6)
- Faith means putting your trust and confidence in God's character and His word—treating them as truth and fact before you ever see the promise in physical reality.

DISCUSS:

- What stood out to you, or what did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention?
- Consider if there are areas of your life that appear to be like a dead stump. Have you given up on a particular dream or aspiration?
- Can you sense the Holy Spirit revealing new life and restoration in those areas?

TAKE ACTION:

- In your group, examine your lives and your faith. Ask yourselves how well you are awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ in faith.
- Are there ways your thoughts, words, or behavior don't reflect your faith in Jesus?

PRAY: Great and mighty God, thank you for being Emmanuel and coming to dwell among us. Thank you for the relationship we are privileged to have with you. We pray for more of you, that you will saturate our lives every day, helping our faith to grow stronger in you. Jesus, thank you for the current season of advent and the first time that you came. Help us to await your second coming with joy and anticipation. In Jesus' Name, Amen!