

## **Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

### **Week 4: A Vision for Peace**

1. Was there anything in the message on Sunday that stood out to you? What was most helpful for you? In what ways did it stretch your thinking?
2. Read Isaiah 11:1-9. What stands out to you most about the vision Isaiah describes? How does this vision challenge or encourage you today?
3. What kind of practices do we, as a church and as individuals, need to adopt in order to work toward Isaiah's vision of peace? What attitudes, behaviors, or mindsets do we need to "put on," and what do we need to "take off" in order to align with this vision?
4. In the message, the speaker mentioned that hope is essential to avoiding cynicism and despair. How can we, as a community, nurture hope in the face of current challenges in our world?
5. In the message, the speaker said that diversity isn't the goal of Christian community but the result of an environment of peace, safety, and justice. Do you agree or disagree? How do you see our church or community fostering these qualities? What challenges do we face in this area?
6. Isaiah describes a leader who judges with wisdom and justice, especially advocating for the poor and oppressed. How does this image of leadership compare to the leadership we see in the world today? What role can we play in fostering this kind of justice?

### **Practice for the week: Living Out Isaiah's Vision of Peace**

Spend some time this week re-reading and reflecting on Isaiah 11:6-9. As you read, reflect on these questions:

- Where do you see division, conflict, or hostility in your life that contrasts with this vision?
- Where do you see diversity, peace, and harmony in your life that aligns with this vision?

Next, think about one specific situation or relationship in your life where you can work toward peace, safety, and harmony.

- Is there someone you need to forgive, reach out to, or offer support to?
- Is there a way you can promote justice or stand up for someone in your community?
- Is there someone in your life whose experiences you need to better understand by taking time to listen to their story and perspective?

Write down any actions or steps you feel prompted to take. Then, close with a prayer, asking for God's guidance and strength to live out Isaiah's vision in your life.