

## Family Worship Guide – Week 49

### MEMORIZE

Isaiah 11:1 – There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

### READ

Read Isaiah 11:1.

God chose the nation of Israel to be the people through which the Messiah would come. Because of their disobedience, God sometimes referred to Israel as a cut down tree. From this stump, God promised that the Rescuer would shoot forth like a fruitful branch from the family of an Israelite named Jesse.

#### Questions:

To what nation did Jesse belong?

A new branch sprouting out of a tree stump is a picture of life coming from death. Can you think of any other examples of life coming from death?

Imagine watching and waiting for a fresh shoot to grow out of an old stump. Think about the anticipation, and perhaps even the doubt, that the Israelites may have felt as they watched and waited for their Savior. How do you feel as you wait for his second coming?

**Bottom Line:** God chose Israel to be the people through which the Messiah would come.

### SING

The prophecy of Isaiah 11:1 reminds us of God’s promise to save the nations from their sin. As New Testament believers, we now celebrate the realization of that promise through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. There is great joy in knowing, as 1 Cor. 15:3-4 tells us, that Scripture is fulfilled in the work of Christ!

As we continue in worship, let us rejoice in the good news of Jesus by singing “Stronger.” Written in 2007 by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan, this song exalts Christ for His power over sin and death. The lyrics tell of the redemptive mission of Jesus that culminated in His glorious rising from the dead. The chorus reads:

*You are stronger, You are stronger  
Sin is broken, You have saved me  
It is written, “Christ is risen”  
Jesus, You are Lord of all*

Together let us praise our promise-keeping Lord and Savior!

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html).

### SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

#### Preschool/Children

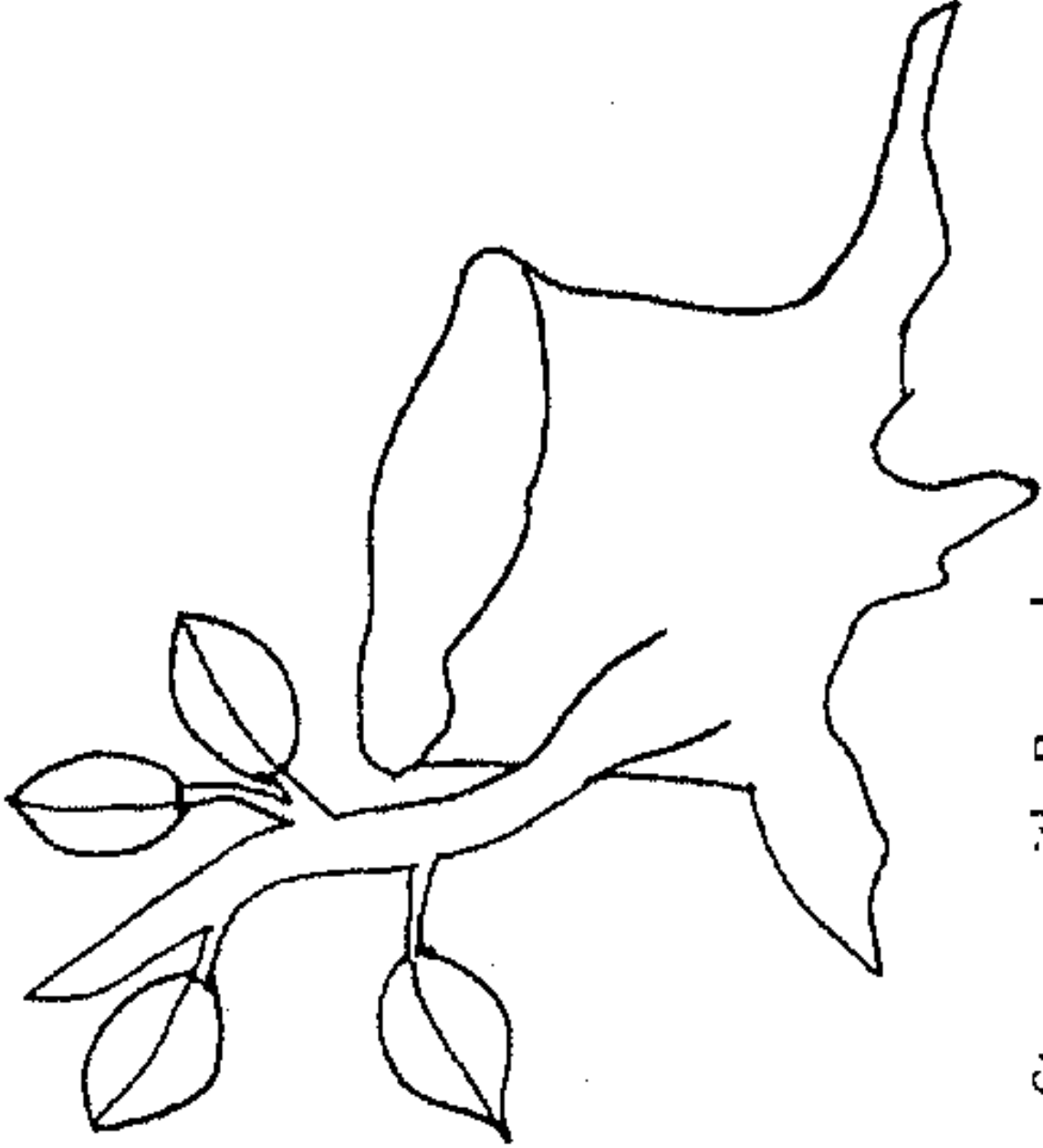
- Before you begin you will need a ruler or yardstick and your Bible. Open your Bible to Isaiah 11:1.
- Explain to your child that “God chose the nation of Israel to be the people through which the Rescuer (Jesus) would come. Because of their disobedience, God sometimes referred to Israel as a cut down tree. From this stump, God promised that the Rescuer (Jesus) would shoot forth like a fruitful branch from the family of an Israelite named Jesse.” (Excerpt from the Brook Hills Advent booklet)
- Throughout the Bible, God gave more than 300 prophecies that foretold the coming of Jesus Christ and what he would

do. This verse explains one of His promises. Does God always keep His promises? Yes! Let's talk about promises.

- Now, hold up the ruler. I am going to put this ruler on the floor and jump over it. I promise I can do this! (Put ruler a short distance in front of you and jump over.) Now I'm going to put the ruler this far away from me and I will jump over it. I promise!! (Put the ruler farther away, but still close enough to easily jump over.) Now I'm going to put the ruler over there and jump over it from here. Should I make this promise? (Put ruler several feet away in a location where you cannot jump over it.) Why shouldn't I make this promise? (because I can't keep that promise. It isn't within my human power to jump that far.)
- But, God can do anything. And whatever He says He is going to do, He will do. Now, open your Bible and ask your children what God promises us in the Bible (check the verse we read earlier). Gods gives us many promises. God made a very important promise in the Bible. He promised to send his son, Jesus. Years and years before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send them someone to help them, a rescuer. He promised that Jesus would come from the family of Jesse. He kept his promise to us. God is so good! He loves us so much He sent His son Jesus to rescue us and save us from our sins/bad choices. What a good and great God. Let's keep in mind the whole picture of who Jesus is. Let's worship him as the fulfillment of all of God's promises to us.
- God ALWAYS keeps His promises! God's plan is always perfect. We can trust Him to keep His promises. When God makes a promise you can count on it.
- Let's pray and thank God for keeping his promise and for sending His son Jesus to rescue us from our sins.

### Students

- As a family think back on times of family travel. Discuss road trips. List trip where one or more family member asked the universal question, "Are We There Yet". What is it that makes us constantly ask this question? Is it anticipation, excitement...boredom?
- Try to put yourself in the Israelites shoes and reread Isaiah 11:1. The Israelites have been giving an exciting promise about someone who would change their future, someone who would make a huge difference in their lives. Their anticipation was through the roof! Then Isaiah comes on the scene and says, "We're not there yet...BUT SOON the promised one will come!"
- How might have you responded? What bad tendencies would you have to watch out for? (i.e. sitting idly by and doing nothing, becoming discouraged)
- How do you respond when someone tells you to wait for something amazing? How do you respond when you find out the actual timetable is different than you expect?
- The bottom line is that the Christ is coming again (soon) and we must be ready! What does it mean to be ready for the coming of Christ? How do we do that?
- Discuss with your family some real ways that you can actively prepare for Christ's return. How does Christ's coming affect your relationships, your conversations, your prayer life?
- Jonathan Edwards drafted [70 resolutions](#), by which he governed his life and ministry. His 7<sup>th</sup> resolution was to "*never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.*" What would you resolve? What decisions do you stand firm on when it comes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ?



Stump with Branch