

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 12: The prophet Isaiah hears God speak about the One Who is to Come. In this prophecy, we hear what this person will be like.

**A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.**

Isaiah 11:1-3a

The spirit of
the Lord
shall rest on
him

Choose the reflective questions
that suit your family:

Ages 3-6



We know that when a tree gets cut down, a stump gets left over. The tree was alive, but the stump is dead. Isaiah hears that the One who comes will be like a new branch sprouting out of a stump; new life growing out of death. Do we know someone who has new life after death? Who could this be?



Who is the Spirit of the LORD? What do we know? At Jesus' Baptism, we hear that the Holy Spirit comes down and remains on Jesus. At Pentecost, the apostles and Mary receive the Holy Spirit. At our Baptism and again at Confirmation, we receive that same Spirit. Take a moment to enjoy that thought: all those years ago, Isaiah speaks about the *same* Spirit who knows and rests on Jesus, and who also knows and rests in us.

Ages 9-12

Ages 6-9

Twice we hear the words "Fear of the LORD." Repetition in the Bible points to something important. We pay attention. What does "Fear of the LORD" mean? Does God want us to be afraid? No. The angels always say, "Do not be afraid." Another name for "Fear of the LORD" is "Wonder and Awe." It means to sit in stillness before our amazing God and wonder at all of God's works. We can try this. What works of God do we wonder at?



Repeated in this reading are the words "the spirit of...the spirit of..." We call these the "gifts of the Holy Spirit."

- 🔥 Wisdom: seeing life as God sees it
- 🔥 Understanding: rooted in God's plan
- 🔥 Counsel: making right choices
- 🔥 Might (= Courage): strength in God
- 🔥 Knowledge: knowing the ways of God
- 🔥 Fear of the Lord: Wonder and Awe
- 🔥 Delight (= Reverence): loving God so much that God's ways become our ways.

teenagers

Which gift do you most need right now?

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.



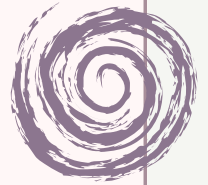
Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.



Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

