



## Justice and Jubilee

Justice · Advent 3 · 3rd/4th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

This Sunday, we learned about the Israelites and their return to Jerusalem in Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11. As a family, read this passage together!

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**: In this story, the Israelites have returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon but continue to face hardship and oppression. The prophet Isaiah, moved by the Spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn. Through a beautiful description of what it means to be alive in the Spirit, alive in God, Isaiah calls us to remember that our faith matters. It heals and gives life. We are still waiting and watching in Advent, sustained by finding out more each week about who Jesus is. Isaiah poetically reminds us who Jesus is and why it is so important for Jesus to arrive. There are people (maybe even us) who are brokenhearted and lost. They are getting restless in their despair. Jesus is comin to help them and to bring us all a picture of how things can be!
- **QUESTION OF THE DAY**: Sometimes the Bible doesn't tell a story, but shares a poem, telling what the



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world could look like. What did you hear in this poem? Sometimes we think justice is all about other people - it's for you too. How would you paint the picture of your life to be different and fairer? Look at verse 8/ there is a strong word in this sentence. What is it? What does God "hate"? Verse 11 shows that justice is like a garden. Seeds in a garden grow into plants. Justice, freedom and hope can grow from small seeds. Name a place where you see justice, freedom, or hope growing.

- **BIBLE BIT:** “The year of the Lord’s favor” is also called the Year of Jubilee. It’s the first thing Jesus talked about in his public ministry (Luke 4:14-21).