



# CIBC Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

*This guide is designed to help guide life group discussions of this week's sermon at Cayman Islands Baptist Church. For more information on life groups and other discipleship opportunities at CIBC, please visit [www.cibaptist.ky](http://www.cibaptist.ky).*



## Get the Picture

- Title:** "Joy"
- Series/Text:** Advent in Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1-11)
- Date:** Dec 13, 2020
- Speaker:** Bro. Jovonnie Anglin
- Main Idea:** God Gives Beauty for Ashes



## Group Discussion

### a) Connect

- 1) **Commit:** Before you begin, agree as a group that you will commit to having an honest discussion about this text without casting any judgment or sharing any unsolicited advice.
- 2) **Read:** Read **Psalm 139:23-24** out loud before you pray to begin the discussion.
- 3) **Pray:** Pray over the group and ask the Lord to "Search your heart" and reveal idols that are keeping you from receiving truth.

### b) Engage

- 1) **Read:** Read Isaiah 61:1-11 and look for repeating words and major themes that stand out. How do these observations help you understand the section as a whole?
- 2) **Discuss:** In today's passage, Isaiah prophetically speaks for the Messiah, and the Messiah announces that He is blessed and empowered by the Spirit of the Lord GOD (v1). If Jesus, the Son of God and God the Son, perfect in both His deity and humanity, needed the Spirit of the Lord GOD, how much more do we?! Do you feel empowered by the Spirit of the Lord? Are you truly relying on His power and not your own?
- 3) **Discuss:** God has an alternative to the sacrificial system. As God directs the work, and as He makes an everlasting covenant, then His heart will be fulfilled among the people. What are some of the ways God is directing your life right now? In your home life? In your work? Are there any areas of life where you feel God trying to direct you, but you are resisting because its uncomfortable or you don't understand why?
- 4) **Discuss:** God's people will rejoice at God's great blessings. How should we show God our gratefulness for His blessings?

- 5) **Discuss:** As the earth brings forth its bud: The blessing of God grows. It isn't manufactured, but it grows. Even so, the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. (v11)

“The blessing of life and growth is miraculously within the seed. But we can provide the right environment for the seed to bud, grow, and be fruitful. That's also how we receive and flourish in God's blessings. We can't “make” or “manufacture” them. But we can put our hearts and minds in the right environments of faith, fellowship, and obedience, to see blessing grow and flourish.” – David Guzike

How are you putting your heart and minds in the right environment? Are there any things you need to remove from your life to make it the right environment?

### c) Apply

- 1) **Consider:** Remain aware of how you are reflecting the abundant blessings of God and his Love for those around you this week as you go about preparing for Christmas Day.
- 2) **Respond:** Take the time to listen to others' needs if given the opportunity. Share the Good News of the Gospel with someone this week. Invite someone to church. Fulfill a physical need of someone.

### d) Pray

- 1) **Silent Prayer:** Enter into a time of silence to allow God to speak to you in response to everything you discussed today. Listen for areas where He may be telling you He wants you to step out in obedience.
- 2) **Group Prayer:** After a time of silence, close out the study with a group prayer for God's grace to suffer well for Christ.



## Going Deeper

- 1) **Reflect each day on what joy you feel being in a personal relationship with a Sovereign God and knowing how much he cares for you:** Write down your thoughts at the beginning or end of each day.