

## **April 11**

### Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

These verses are the most familiar in Ecclesiastes and they speak of the different seasons in life.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Have you gone through a season in your life – a time when you lived a certain way or were focused on something, but for which that is no longer the case? Describe it, and how does it feel to have moved into a new season?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, I know that life includes seasons and there are times when I must let go of something that has been part of my life. When those times come, help me to make the transition and to always move forward in faith, looking to you for direction and strength. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **April 12**

### Isaiah 6:1-8

Prophets were preachers who proclaimed the word of God to the people of Israel. In these verses we begin to encounter the prophet Isaiah. Here, we read of God's calling Isaiah to be a prophet.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Try to put yourself in Isaiah's shoes. Would you have responded to God the way he did? Why, or why not?

#### *Prayer:*

Almighty God, there may come a time when you call me to something I did not expect and may not feel ready for. When that happens, fill me with strength and courage so that I can say with Isaiah, "Here I am, send me." In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

## **April 13**

### Isaiah 9:2-7

In these verses Isaiah says, "unto us a child is born." Christians believe that these words refer to the birth of Jesus.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Isaiah says that this one to come will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Focus on one of those names for a moment. What does it mean to you?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, Isaiah spoke words of hope and I believe those words are fulfilled in Jesus. Help me to be faithful, to remain hopeful, and to always trust in you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **April 14**

### Isaiah 11:1-9

In this passage we are told, yet again, of the coming of a hoped for savior and Isaiah adds promises about what the world will then be like.

#### *Question to Consider:*

It seems far-fetched to think that there will ever be a time when “the wolf will live with the lamb” Is it *too* far-fetched to be believed? Why, or why not?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, Isaiah speaks of a time of incredible peace. I pray for peace, and I pray that I can be a *peace-maker* today. I pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Amen.

## **April 15**

### Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Later on, an idea developed about the coming messiah (anointed one of God). The idea was that this chosen one of God would suffer, but that his suffering would be sacrificial and would bring about redemption and salvation. Christians believe that these words were fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection.

#### *Question to Consider:*

It is a strange truth of life that suffering can bring healing and growth. Can you think of a time in your own life when you struggled, maybe even suffered, but grew as a result? What was it?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, I know that there will be times in my life when I suffer. When those times come, help me to learn and grow from them and to become more like Jesus than I was before. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.