

December 13-14, 2025

**Title: Promises for Christmas, Pt 3: “The Promise of Joy in the Desert” – Isaiah 35:1-10**

**Big Idea: Trust in the LORD to turn deserts into joy**

Read Isaiah 35:1-10. What is challenging or surprising?

What do you think stood out most to the original audience? What stands out to you?

**I. He promises to restore (vv.1-2).**

How does remembering God’s past faithfulness (like Israel remembering the Exodus) help you trust Him with present uncertainty? Where are you currently tempted to forget God’s past faithfulness because of present fear or disappointment?

**II. He strengthens the weak (vv.3-4).**

Isaiah links spiritual encouragement with the church’s responsibility. Who has strengthened you in a moment of fear or weakness—and how did God use them?

Who is God calling you to strengthen right now—and what specific step will you take this week?

**III. He comes to save (v.4).**

When you consider Jesus taking on flesh as Immanuel, what part of His humility strikes you most deeply—and how does that restore your joy?

**IV. He heals and renews (vv.5-7).**

How do you see Christ fulfill this promise of healing and renewal?

Why do you think God often allows believers to experience wilderness before renewal?

What are you still asking God to heal—and how are you tempted to lose joy there?

**V. He leads His people home (vv.8-10).**

What does living in the “already, not yet” kingdom look like when joy feels delayed or incomplete?

If someone watched your week closely, where would they see that your hope is anchored in the second coming of Christ—not in earthly outcomes?

“Next Step” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

• **With God as His FAMILY:**

Let the promise of everlasting joy fuel your fight against sin, your pursuit of purity, and your daily obedience. Behold your God. Consider His glory and majesty.

• **With Others as His SERVANTS:**

Share with one another: What makes joy difficult for you right now? Read Psalm 16, and share how the WORD of God helps to confront and reorient your heart?

• **On Mission as His MISSIONARIES:**

Who in your life is walking through a desert right now and needs to hear that joy is found in Christ alone? Pray for an opportunity to speak hope or show tangible love this week.