

## Isaiah 11:1-10

### Come, Jesus, show us the way

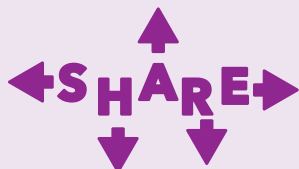
Living in harmony can be challenging, yet there are voices that can tell us how if we listen. Sometimes we just don't want to; the voices are young, the changes required can be hard. But what if we did listen and, what if we did change?

Read this week's passage:



## Read

Read the book *Giraffes can't dance* – a book which celebrates difference and thinks about what separates our thoughts about what others 'should' or 'could' do.



Give the youngest person in your household the choice about what to do for an evening, e.g. food to eat, activity or what to watch on TV. See what it's like to be led by them.

## ACT

With your family or group of friends, agree on one new tradition that you will start this month or next. Agree to commit to it for at least 6-12 months, while being flexible to adapt or change it as you go along.



Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:

## Living Scripture

*'The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,'* Isaiah 11:2

The prophet looks to the future and sees a king who leads differently: a wise, righteous, faithful leader, bringing both justice and peace. His rule will bring such a profound reordering of the society that it would be like putting your children to sleep beside a wild apex predator – if that's safe, the world has changed! This is a very different kind of peace. Christians see this prophetic description fulfilled in Jesus.

Sometimes our hopes are small when it comes to peace. We imagine an end to an argument, a ceasefire, just getting away from the pain. In some situations, even those small hopes may seem impossible. But this passage challenges us to see peace even more radically. Not for silenced arguments, but deep understanding. Not just a ceasefire, but communities connected by care.

Jesus taught us to be peacemakers. We can compare Isaiah 11 and Matthew 5 (Jesus' Sermon on the Mount which teaches his followers how to live in radical peace). What would it mean for the world if we could live and lead like Jesus, filled with God's wisdom and Spirit, bringing justice and mercy? What steps can you take this week towards this vision of peace?

## First impressions

- What do you imagine when you think of peace?
- What can we learn from Jesus about peace?
- How could Christmastime be an opportunity to promote peace in your community?



## Pray

Loving God,  
may we be less dismissive of the young;  
of the First Nations who know their own country more deeply than those who colonised;  
of the quieter voices who struggle to be heard,  
and the voices we don't want to hear.  
Give them courage to keep on shouting until we become agents of change.  
Amen.



## WALK

Go on a 'toss the coin' walk. Allowing something else to show you the way and trusting in what that might hold. Set out from home and toss the coin any time you come to a fork in the road, turning left for 'tails' and right for 'heads'.