



## **Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups**

### **“Isaiah 35”**

**Preached by Daniel Grothe**

**December 14, 2025**

#### **Summary**

*Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.*

In this third week of Advent, Pastor Daniel preached from Isaiah 35, exploring the theme of joy in the wilderness. While the Bible acknowledges life's difficulties and wilderness seasons, he said God promises that these desert places will blossom and sing with joy. Using the metaphor of the wilderness transforming into a flowering desert, he explained that Jesus came not to rescue us from being human, but to fill us with His Spirit so we can persevere and grow through life's challenges. He highlighted that miracles are signposts pointing to the eternal kingdom, not permanent solutions to earthly problems. Pastor Daniel concluded with three practical instructions for navigating wilderness seasons: strengthen one another, speak encouraging words, and sing our way through difficulties together as the body of Christ.

## Key Passages

- Isaiah 35:1-2
- Isaiah 35:3-4
- Isaiah 35:5-6
- Matthew 11:2-5
- Ephesians 6:10-13

## Opening Prayer

*Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own*

**Heavenly Father**, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to receive what You have for us in this time together. We acknowledge that You are already here, waiting to meet with us and speak to our hearts. Lord, help us to set aside our distractions and preconceived notions about what we think we need to hear. Instead, make us receptive to Your voice and Your truth. Holy Spirit, prepare our hearts to be challenged, comforted, and changed by Your Word. May we leave this discussion not just with more knowledge, but with transformed hearts that are ready to live out what You teach us. We ask this in Jesus' name, **Amen**.

## Getting Going

*Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.*

What's your favorite season of the year and why? What makes that particular season special to you?

## Discussion Questions

*Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.*

1. Pastor Daniel shared the story of Great Grandma Cora saying the Great Depression was her favorite decade. How can difficult seasons sometimes become the most meaningful times in our lives?
2. The sermon described miracles as 'signposts' rather than destinations. How does this perspective change the way we view answered and unanswered prayers?
3. Isaiah 35:3-4 calls us to 'strengthen the feeble hands and steady the knees that give way.' Can you share about a time when someone strengthened you during a difficult season?
4. Pastor Daniel mentioned that we want God to rescue us, but He wants us to become mature. How have you seen God use challenging circumstances to help you grow?

5. The sermon emphasized three instructions: strengthen each other, speak encouragement, and sing through difficulties. Which of these comes most naturally to you, and which is most challenging?
6. How can we avoid becoming 'scandalized' or offended when God's salvation doesn't work the way we expect it to?

## **Making It Personal**

*Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life*

This week, intentionally practice one of the three instructions from Isaiah 35: strengthen someone who is struggling; speak words of encouragement to someone who needs to hear 'do not fear'; or choose to worship through song during a difficult moment. Look for opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus to someone in their wilderness season.

## **Key Takeaways**

*Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.*

- ☐ God promises that wilderness seasons will eventually blossom with joy and life, even when circumstances seem impossible
- ☐ Miracles are signposts pointing to the eternal kingdom, not permanent solutions to earthly problems

- Jesus doesn't rescue us from being human but fills us with His Spirit to persevere and grow through difficulties
- The church community is called to strengthen each other, speak encouragement, and sing through wilderness seasons together
- Salvation is both a present reality and a future hope - we experience glimpses of the kingdom now while waiting for its full arrival

## Closing Prayer

*Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.*

**Lord Jesus**, thank You for this time of fellowship and learning together. We are grateful that You don't abandon us in our wilderness seasons but promise to make them places of growth and eventual joy. Help us to be faithful in strengthening one another, speaking words of life and encouragement, and choosing to worship You even in difficult times. Give us the courage to trust Your process of making us mature rather than simply rescuing us from every challenge. May we be signposts of Your kingdom to others who are walking through their own wilderness seasons. Fill us with Your Spirit and help us to sing our way through whatever lies ahead, knowing that You are with us and that ultimate victory is assured. In Your precious name we pray, **Amen**.