



It is always helpful when going through a time of trouble if you find some reason to hold on to hope for the future. In the first ten chapters of [Isaiah](#) there is a remarkable alternation of the imagery of light and darkness. The hope expressed here is not a blind and shallow optimism. It is not a "you have never had it so good" philosophy borne along on the crest of economic prosperity. Reading the whole of

[Isaiah 7—12](#) shows how difficult and depressing the days of Ahaz were in many respects. Yet this chapter holds out in both general and specific terms a thrilling hope for the future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read & meditate on [Isaiah 11:1-16](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important to you. Why are they important to you?
2. Summarize the character of the person described as the "Branch" in [Isaiah 11:2-5](#).
3. What do [verses 6-9](#) teach about the character of the kingdom of the One who is called the "Branch"?
4. How is the great homecoming ([verses 10-16](#)) spelling out in detail what the prophecy in [Isaiah 11:9](#) predicts?
5. How are the Branch of [Isaiah 11:1](#), and the Root of [Isaiah 11:10](#) related?
6. Which of the qualities of the Holy Spirit listed in [Isaiah 11:2](#) do you most want the Spirit to work in your life at this time? Why?
7. How does your church or fellowship best reflect His kingdom as it is described here?
8. In situations in your life, how does trusting God mean reaffirming the truths of [Isaiah 12:2](#)?

MOVING FORWARD

Ask the Lord to show you what it means to live in hope for the future.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him —a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” [Isaiah 11:2](#)