

**2023 Aim Check-in**

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
  - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
  2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy. Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. “Tear it down,” they cried, “tear it down to its foundations!” (Psalm 137)  
“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace.’ (Haggai 2:6-9)

1. In sermon, we discussed the longings of the people of Israel expressed in the period following the exile. What kinds of things did the Israelites long for?
2. Do you find it interesting that very rarely did the Israelites long for God’s presence or leadership over them? Why do you think this might have been the case?
3. What kind of unmet longings are common in the church today?
4. What unmet longings have you wrestled with in your following of Jesus? How did you/do you manage these longings in a way that permitted you to experience the peace Christ grants us?

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-3)

In sermon, we learned that another shift was experienced within the longing of the people of Israel, a shift from a longing for a place to a longing for a person - a strange, nebulous figure known as the Messiah.

1. When you consider the expectations the Jews of this period had of the Messiah, what thoughts come to mind? How did they expect the Messiah to meet their unmet longings?
2. Do we ever follow a similar path in our expectations of Jesus?
3. How might we “walk the other way” – the path revealed by those ancient Jews who waited patiently to be led by the expected Messiah – in our following of Jesus?

**Discussion Questions Set #3**

“You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise” (Psalm 51:16-17).  
“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)

1. In sermon, we discussed the idea that in response to unmet longings we often either busy ourselves with activity or to stagnate with inactivity. Why do you think this might be the case?
2. The Pharisees exceeded in behaviour that was seen as ritually obedient, envisioning that the longing of Israel would only be met once the people of Israel were ritually compliant with the fullness of the Law. Why do you think they assumed this? Might we see similar activity in our world today? If so, where and in what way?
3. What do you think it means in a practical sense to “follow Jesus in our brokenness”?