

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stood out to you (interesting, challenging, confusing, etc.)?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

1) Do you cling to any of God's promises in times of difficulty? What is easy about clinging to that promise? What is hard about clinging to that promise?

PROMISES PLACE (VV 1-5)

- 2) When is a time in your life when you felt like you didn't belong—either in the past or the present?
- 3) Verses 1-4 describes this place that God is making where we will all belong. Read the verses again and notice what most excites you about the place God is preparing?

PROMISED PEOPLE (VV 6-7)

- 4) God describes the kind of people he is gathering to himself as the "lame", "those who have been driven away", "those whom I have afflicted". Does it surprise you that these are the kinds of people God pursues, rescues, and reigns over? Why or why not?
- 5) Do you think that this a helpful point to remind people as you share about your faith?
- 6) Our temptation is to think that the more we are suffering the more alone we are and the more distant God is, but Hebrews 4:15 tells us that the more we suffer, the more Jesus is with us. Read Hebrews 4:15. How might this verse comfort you in moments of weakness, suffering, or temptation?

PROMISED KING (VV 8-10)

- 7) Jesus is sometimes described as an 'upside down' king because the way he leads is so different from the leaders we know and are subject to. What is one characteristic of Jesus that reminds you that he is the best king?
- 8) Zach said that we live in a time when Jesus has already come, and He makes a place of belonging already for His people through His Church. What is one way you feel a sense of belonging, a sense that there is a place for you, at church?
- 9) Like the people in Micah's day, we are still waiting for the king to come. God says that he will rescue them from Babylon, a situation more desperate than they could imagine. Is there a place in your life in which you are still waiting for rescue?
- 10) How does remembering that this rescue is, like Christmas Day, sure and coming, help you as you wait for rescue?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- 11) How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- 12) In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to work on as a result of this study?