Finding Home for Christmas: Directions
Isaiah 35:1-10
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Isaiah 35:1-10: The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, [2] it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. [3] Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; [4] say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." [5] Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. [6] Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. [7] The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. [8] And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. [9] No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, [10] and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ with a sense of direction.

_____ a singular focus: The wilderness will burst into blooms and it will rejoice because its beauty will be glorious…then my people will see the Lord and the magnificence their God! Let this strengthen the limp hands and encourage the week knees!

Isaiah 35:2 (JOT)

2. _____ to GPS (God's Positioning System)

_____ misdirection: Encourage the faint-hearted! Strengthen your heart and mind by saying: "Do not be afraid! Behold, our God will recompense those who have wronged us! He shall come in order to set things right and save us!" Isaiah 35:2-3a (JOT)

_____ the bread crumbs: Jesus told them, "Go back and tell John what's going on: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the wretched of the earth learn that God is on their side. Is this what you were expecting? Then count yourselves most blessed!"

Matthew 11:4-6 (MSG)

_____ a new direction: The Way, the Truth and the Life shall be there! It will be a road of spiritual cleansing and healing. It be called the Highway of the Holy…no one will need to fear the loin or the evil beasts ….

Isaiah 35:8-9 (JOT)

3. _____ your ultimate destination

_____e redeemed: These, the ransomed of the Lord, will go home along that road to Zion, singing the songs of everlasting joy. For them, all sorrow and all sighing will be gone forever; only joy and gladness will be there.

Isaiah 35:10 (TLB)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where are you headed in your life? Are you moving toward beauty, hope, and strength or are you on the path to discouragement and despair? Listen to the words of Jesus for direction: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6, (NIV)) Connecting to Christ will lead you out of the wilderness, it will guide you to the springs of living water, and it will allow your life to blossom! Jesus is the Lamb of God given as a ransom for your life! Accept his forgiveness, so that you will find the path to eternal joy and hope! This week read Isaiah 35 and John 14 allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to the place of God's care and presence.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message; TLB: The Living Bible