

# Firestarter 5

## Scripture: Isaiah 11–12

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the word you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
  - First, read to understand
  - Second, read to notice
  - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then Choose three questions from the observation section and find their answers.
  - Fourth, in chapter 11, mark all words that refer to **trees**. In chapter 12, mark words that refer to **singing** or **joy**.

### READ: Isaiah 11–12

### OBSERVATION:

Why is the metaphor of a tree branch a good one? Who is the “branch”? (See 11:1 note.) What other places in the Bible are trees significant?

How long before Christ's birth was this prophecy given, and when will it reach ultimate fulfillment? (See 11:1 note.)

In what ways would “the Spirit of the LORD” equip and empower the Branch (11:2-5)? (See 11:2 and 11:2-3 notes.)

Why and how is this same empowerment vital for Jesus' followers? (See 11:2 note.)

In what ways will Christ's future reign on earth radically transform things (11:6-9)?

What does it mean that the Lord is “my strength and my song” (12:2)?

## APPLICATION:

Have you ever worked behind the scenes, filling a vital role, even though it wasn't visible? That's often the way the Holy Spirit works. By the time of the New Testament book of Acts, the Spirit's activity is apparent as His power and gifts operate through Jesus' followers. But the Holy Spirit has been at work throughout human history, preparing the way for God's creative word to shape the world and speak life into existence, empowering godly people, speaking through prophets, and inspiring the writers of Scripture to pen God's message to humanity. Much of the Spirit's work goes without mention. Still, Isaiah refers to the Holy Spirit more often than any other Old Testament prophet as he foretells the coming Christ. Jesus was filled, guided, and empowered by the Spirit. In the same way, we rely on the Spirit for wisdom, direction, and power.

Where do you see the "invisible" work of the Spirit in your life?

**Action Step:** Today, make an effort to thank Jesus for as many things as you can. As you work, do your schoolwork, or chores, talk to God as you would a friend. Be prepared to tell someone about something God has done for you or to have a conversation about your faith or spiritual issues. When you're alone, sing a song of praise to God. Bonus points for writing it down. If you are musically talented, try to add music to it.

## PRAY:

Give God thanks for sending Jesus to save you and for the Holy Spirit that empowers you to serve Him. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and give you the strength to do His will. Thank Him for the reliability of His Word. Pray for boldness to talk about God's work in your life.