

Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give
way; say to those with
fearful hearts, "Be strong,
do not fear; your God
will come."
Isaiah 35:3

Advent

Strong in Christ- Mutual Strengthening

December 6 & 7, 2016

Small Group Activity

Think about and share with those sitting with you some of the things that happen to your body when you are stressed, anxious, and afraid. (e.g. headaches, lethargy, etc.)

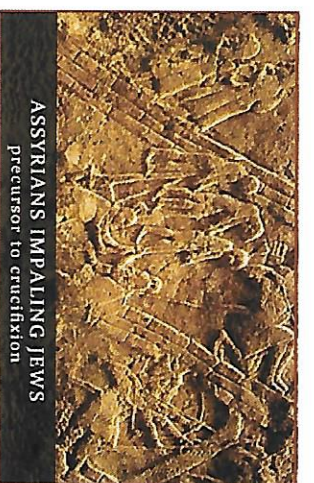
Large Group Activity Read Isaiah 35: 1-10

- Isaiah loves _____. Skim Isaiah chapters 34 & 35.
- Chapter 35 is characterized by verb _____, intentionally placed at the beginning of the first verse.
- Identify some of the figures that Isaiah uses in chapter 35:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
- Creation tells us a story. The figures represent _____

Large Group Teaching- Judah's People Fear as Assyria Terrorizes

- Assyrians- the first to use _____ to make their weapons.
- Assyrians invented some of the first _____ equipment to defeat fortified cities.
- Assyrian army was one of the first to use _____.

- Assyrians- known for their _____ in warfare; they would mutilate and _____ those they conquered.
- Assyrians destroyed _____ in 722 BC, ever threatening _____.



ASSYRIANS IMPALING JEWS
precursor to crucifixion

Large Group Teaching- Strong in Christ- Mutual Strengthening

- Isaiah 35: 3-4 The Three Commands-

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- Fear causes _____ to not do the things they should. Recall initial Small Group Activity.
- Fear causes _____ to not endure, nor permit a person to stand erect and firm as he/she should. Recall initial Small Group Activity.
- Fear signals a person is struggling to _____.
- The work of the church is described as _____ fellow children of God so they might function with the confidence of God's _____.
- Strengthening happens as a person recalls the ancient _____ of God and looking into the _____ when He will have accomplished His redemption.

Read Matthew 11: 1-6. Read Isaiah 35: 5-10.

- What do you see in common in these two readings?
- What does Jesus mean when He says, "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." (v. 6)?
- What do the readings teach about the work of being church? In what ways do you see this going on at St. John's? How does St. John's vision inspire this God-commanded work?