

**A DESERT IN BLOOM**  
**ISAIAH 35:1-10**  
**JAMES 5:7-10**

*ISAIAH 35:1-10*

- 1     The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
          the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
- 2     it shall blossom abundantly  
          and rejoice with joy and singing.  
      The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
          the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
      They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
          the majesty of our God.
- 3     Strengthen the weak hands,  
          and make firm the feeble knees.
- 4     Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
          "Be strong; fear not!  
      Behold, your God  
          will come with vengeance,  
      with the recompense of God.  
          He will come and save you."
- 5     Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
          and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- 6     then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
          and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
      For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
          and streams in the desert;
- 7     the burning sand shall become a pool,  
          and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
      in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
          the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- 8     And a highway shall be there,  
          and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
      the unclean shall not pass over it.  
          It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
          even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
- 9     No lion shall be there,  
          nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
      they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.  
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

#### *JAMES 5:7-10*

**7** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

#### **DISCUSS**

1. Where does your life currently feel most like a desert, and what might it look like to trust God's promise of renewal there rather than judging the desert too soon?"
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Distinguishing optimism from biblical hope, how have you experienced the difference between 'things getting better with time' and 'God actively making things new' in your own faith journey?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Isaiah describes the Way of Holiness as a shared road where the redeemed walk together. What are some practical ways we can support one another when someone in our community is weary, waiting, or struggling to keep walking?