



UMI

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST 2022

teacher



**Partners in a
New Creation**

PARTNERS IN A NEW CREATION

Dear Teacher,

This quarter focuses on God’s character, Jesus’ work in the world, and the hope of heaven.

In the book of Isaiah, we see how God foretells of Babylon’s destruction and the redemption of Israel. God’s mercy and restoration are highlighted in the book of Isaiah. In these passages, we witness the righteous anger of God toward His people. What is your response and how might you convey this attribute to Jammers? In what context does it fit today? We further examine how Jesus, the Word, became flesh who healed the sick, saved the lost, and resurrected the dead. How has the Word of God affected you? What testimonies can you share with Jammers regarding the healing, saving, and resurrection power of Jesus in your life? Ask Jammers where they have seen this power at work in their lives and in the world at-large. Finally, we learn about the measurements and grandeur of heaven that Jesus is preparing for those who have accepted Him. What are your thoughts regarding heaven? How does your life reflect what you believe about heaven? Share with Jammers that they can look forward to a place that is beyond their imagination if they stay in Christ.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding the spiritual preparation of our youth; we are praying for your strength and endurance as you serve the Lord with diligence.

In His Service,

Mrs. Antoinette “Toni” Mosley
Editor, *J.A.M. (Jesus And Me)*®

TEACHING WITH GOD'S PURPOSE IN MIND

Do you remember why you became a Sunday School teacher? Did you follow this path because you saw an opportunity to share your skills and talents in a way that allowed you to serve your church family? Maybe you felt a desire to help young children grow spiritually. Then again, could it be that you felt your heartstrings experiencing the drawing of God's Holy Spirit, calling you to become a teacher of His Word? By whatever means you found yourself standing in the shoes of a Sunday School teacher of God's little ones, know you are standing in a mighty and very important place.

While there may be times when you find yourself feeling unsure or even a little intimidated, it is key and critical to your success as a Sunday School teacher to understand the importance of your role in the Body of Christ. Each time you stand before a class of young children, you are a vessel whose purpose is to impart knowledge concerning the Lord Jesus and His kingdom to future disciples, ministers, prophets, and, yes, even future Sunday School teachers.

As a Sunday School teacher, you are enriching, as well as nurturing, a very special and cherished segment in the Body of Christ—God's young children. The love, compassion, and witness you show your students allows them to experience an aspect of Christian ministry and service that has the capacity to multiply in ways you may never know.

Always be mindful that the students you have taught, are teaching, and will teach can experience God's love, and ultimately your service can result in countless lives being transformed and changed forever.

So your question might be, "How do I know I'm teaching with God's purpose in mind?" Taking note of the following suggestions will surely add clarity in helping to answer this question.

First, continue to pray as you prepare your Sunday School lessons. Ask the Lord to provide creative and stimulating delivery of your lessons.

Second, prepare each week with your particular students in mind. Remember that children are individuals and have varied styles of learning. As often as you can, try to meet those needs with love and care.

Third, always try to enhance your lessons by putting Scripture to song and creating games. This will help students who may not fall into the category of "traditional learners" feel comfortable.

Finally, understand that your ability to teach is a spiritual gift from God. First Corinthians 12:4–11 tells us that these gifts have been given for "the common good" for all those who comprise the Body of Christ.

The answer to whether or not you are teaching with God's purpose in mind is clear. If, through your service as a Sunday School teacher, you are using your gift for the purpose of building and uplifting the Body of Christ, know with a resounding YES that you are! You can also rejoice in knowing that the Lord is pleased with your service.

A QUICK LOOK

Lesson	Date	Theme Title	Scripture	In My Heart	Last Jam
1	6/5	God Foretells Destruction	Isaiah 47:10–15	Isaiah 47:10	I will choose to be honest with God in everything I do!
2	6/12	God Foretells of Redemption	Isaiah 49:1–11	Isaiah 49:6	I will live for a higher purpose — God's purpose!
3	6/19	God's Restored People Shall Prosper	Isaiah 49:18–23	Isaiah 49:22	When I hope in the Lord, I will not be disappointed!
4	6/26	God Offers Deliverance	Isaiah 51:1–8	Isaiah 51:4	God will deliver those who seek and follow Him!
5	7/3	The Creating Word Becomes Flesh	John 1:1–14	John 1:2–4	Walk as children of light as God is light!
6	7/10	The Word Heals	John 4:46–54	John 4:53	At God's word, you can be healed!
7	7/17	The Word Resurrects the Dead	John 11:17–27, 38–44	John 11:25–26	Jesus is a life-giver!
8	7/24	The Word Saves	John 12:44–50	John 12:46	Jesus is the Light that lives in me!
9	7/31	The Word Gives Peace	John 14:15–29	John 14:27	I have the peace of God living in me!
10	8/7	A New Home	Revelation 21:1–8	Revelation 21:4	I will strive to dwell with God forever.
11	8/14	A New City	Revelation 21:9–21	Revelation 21:10–11	I am preparing now for my new home!
12	8/21	The River of Life	Revelation 22:1–7	Revelation 22:1	I will look for God's blessings in my life and I will share Him with others!
13	8/28	Come and Enjoy	Revelation 22:10–21	Revelation 22:20	My list of who to invite is growing.

Quarter At-A-Glance

June 2022

Partners in a New Creation

Members of Christ's body have the grand opportunity to be co-laborers with the ever-abiding Spirit of God in reconciling, re-creating, and rightly restoring all things in the eternal reign of God. This summer quarter considers ways in which believers are partners with God in creation.

UNIT 1 • God Delivers and Restores

This unit has four lessons. Using three chapters of Isaiah, this study explores God's predictions of the future destruction of Babylon and deliverance for Israel. These events were evidence of God's power at work to grant mercy and redemption to the penitent and to restore God's people to a state of peace and prosperity.

UNIT 2 • The Word: The Agent of Creation

This unit has five lessons taken from John's Gospel. The lessons stress how the Creating Word, at work in and with humanity, became flesh, healed the sick, saved the lost, resurrected the dead and granted—through the Holy Spirit—peace.

UNIT 3 • The Great Hope of the Saints

In this unit, a four-lesson study draws from Revelation to help learners envision the new home and city God has prepared for the redeemed. In this new heavenly environment, the saints will enjoy the new water of eternal life.

NOWHERE TO RUN. NOWHERE TO HIDE.

WEEKLY THEME:

GOD FORETELLS DESTRUCTION

BASED ON:

Isaiah 47:10–15

LESSON AIM:

During this lesson, Jammers will:

KNOW: Discern present-day practices that obstruct people's relationship with God.

FEEL: Regret the separation from God that results from sin.

DO: Turn away from evil practices and worship God alone.

TARGET

In Isaiah 47, the prophet scolds Babylon for its dependence on divinations, the use of their magical and astrological arts. Witchcraft is a sin which gives honor to the devil. Astrology is a sin which credits the stars and heavenly bodies as having control. Practitioners honor the creation instead of the Creator. Babylon's government even protected these practices. The people learned sorcery from youth through adulthood. Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) proclaims, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." God has not changed. What was detestable and worthy of punishment in Isaiah is equally sinful today.

TOOLS

Bibles, student magazines, pens or pencils, white poster paper and two markers for WORD!

OPEN THE LESSON

Elicit ideas from Jammers by asking two key questions: What causes you to feel distant or separated from God? How are youth in our community exposed to false gods or practices?

REALITY CHECK

Nowhere to Run. Nowhere to Hide.

Clint quickly closed his tablet. He heard Mom coming up the stairs. "Hey, Clint. Are you busy? I'm heading out to run some errands. Do you want to come along? We can get ice cream while we're out," she said.

Clint stammered, "No, I'm fine. I'll just stay

here. I'm reading on my tablet." *I know I'm not exactly reading, but Mom wouldn't know the difference.* His heart raced as he thought of how easily he had lied. How easily the lies and secrets seemed to come recently.

"Suit yourself," said Mom. "I'd sure enjoy your company." When Clint heard Mom's car leave the garage, he opened the tablet again. *I hope Andre and Mike are still on.* Clint pulled a folded scrap of paper from his pocket with Andre's password and a reminder to *up* his age to 14. Clint's new friends recently invited him to their video group chat.

"It's nothing *really* bad but be sure your parents don't snoop around on the site. It's just for us guys," Andre had warned. "OK?"

"Sure," Clint promised.

Later that evening. . .

Clint joined his parents for evening devotions before their Friday family game night. Dad joked around for a bit before opening his Bible to Isaiah 47:10. Clint squirmed as Dad read the Bible. Usually this was a fun time. Tonight, he felt sad. Dad said, "This verse really spoke to me earlier this week. God showed me how I want our company to make money so badly, I'd do anything to show a profit at work. This verse says that we can't hide *anything* from God. Money can be an idol. My attitude and actions became sins. I don't want to work like this anymore, so I asked God to forgive me."

Clint listened to Dad. He whispered a prayer to God. *I'm so sorry. Ever since I tried to get Andre and Mike to be my friends, I've been pulling*

away from You. I'm sorry. No more hiding. Please forgive me, too. Help me.

Later that evening, Clint told Mom and Dad he needed to talk with them. He wanted their help also.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Clint was uncomfortable around his parents that Friday?
2. When are times you tried to hide your sinful actions or thoughts?

PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES IN MY HEART

Recite this verse: “You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me’” (from Isaiah 47:10, NIV).

WORD!

On a large sheet of paper draw the outline shape of a person. Draw a vertical line dividing the shape in half. Label the left side “Hiding.” Label the right side “Resisting.” Ask Jammers to suggest qualities of the person who gives in to corruption, while trying to hide what they are doing. Add these on the left side. Ask Jammers to suggest qualities for the person of virtue who resists corruption. Add these on the right. Explain that because of our pride we want to convince ourselves that our behavior is okay. Discuss how to become virtuous Jammers with nothing to hide.

SIDEBAR

God Foretells Destruction

God sent Isaiah as a prophet to the Israelites and people of Babylon. He told them of their sin. He told them they trusted in their own intelligence, astrologers, sorcerers, and people who made predictions. No matter how much the people tried, though, they could not hide their actions from God. Any person or idol separating them from worshipping the one supreme God would lead to their destruction! They needed to worship God alone. No matter how hard they tried, they could not hide their sinful ways from God. Worshipping anything besides God leads to destruction.

EXPLORE THE MEANING

Nothing Hidden – I Will...

- A—Avoid anything separating me from God.
 - V—Vigorously pray and seek God daily.
 - O—Obey God’s Word and godly counsel.
 - I—Invite God to shine His light and show me my hidden sins.
 - D—Determine to turn from any evil practice and worship God alone.
- I will avoid destruction.**

GOT IT!

A. No Help

Jammers will use “WORD!” to help them with this activity. **Answers:** 1. wickedness; 2. disaster; 3. sorcerers, those working magic spells, astrologers, stargazers, predictors; 4. themselves

Fill in the missing words: you, trusted, wickedness, said, no, one, sees, me

B. It’s Tempting

Jammers break into small groups to brainstorm real-life situations where youth are tempted with practices or worship opposing God. Encourage Jammers to think of ways to avoid these ungodly situations. Have groups share ideas with each other.

JAM SESSION

Nowhere to Run. Nowhere to Hide.

Jammers will look at the Scripture and compare it to their modern-day lives. Isaiah pointed out how people trusted in their own knowledge and wisdom. Help Jammers grasp that *all* forms of advice and trust in *anything or anyone* against God is a sin. One way youth know the behavior is wrong is when they try to hide their actions. God welcomes us back when we ask forgiveness.

NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION

JAM ON IT!

Now, It’s Your Turn!

This week Jammers are encouraged to notice their own attitudes or actions they wouldn’t want their parents or God to see. Pray for Jammers to recognize God’s warning signs and repent.

God Foretells Destruction

Bible Background • ISAIAH 47

Printed Text • ISAIAH 47:10–15 | Devotional Reading • PSALM 137

Aim for Change

By the end of this lesson, we will UNDERSTAND why God would destroy Babylon; GRAPPLE with the destructiveness of delighting in power and pleasure; and REPENT from thoughts, actions, and feelings that separate us from God.

In Focus

Jeremy's life turned around when he earned a free ride scholarship to Yale. When he graduated, he went into investment banking. His salary was more than anything his family had imagined. He could afford the finer things in life, and he wasn't ashamed to flaunt it.

Time passed and Jeremy got married and had kids of his own. He rose up in the ranks at his company and even became vice president. Soon Jeremy abandoned going to church, claiming he was too busy and that the preacher only wanted money. He also rarely visited home and often talked down about the neighborhood where he came from.

One day his wife, Judy, said, "Your mom called earlier. Wanted to see if we could come over for dinner on Friday."

"We'll see her on the Fourth," Jeremy said. "Isn't that soon enough?"

"Maybe she just wants to see her son," Judy said.

Jeremy doubted it. "Or maybe Aunt Pearl wants to ask me again if I'll cover her rent."

"Times have been hard for people in your old neighborhood."

"They were hard for me, too, but I got out of it. Why can't they? They're poor because they're just lazy and wouldn't take advantage of the opportunities they have like I did."

One day everything Jeremy trusted in came crashing down. His doctor told him he had a brain tumor. Now he wished he had a stronger relationship with God, and in the corner of his office, he knelt down to ask God to forgive him for his pride.

Has your pride ever separated you from God?

Keep in Mind

"Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee."

(Isaiah 47:15, KJV)

Focal Verses

KJV **Isaiah 47:10** For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

11 Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.

12 Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

13 Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

15 Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.

The People, Places, and Times

Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet during the eighth century. His prophetic ministry spanned the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Manasseh. Scholars have argued that Isaiah was more than likely connected to the king's court in some way, based on his call narrative. Throughout his ministry, Isaiah's prophecies are directed at Judah and its idolatry and oppression. Isaiah's prophetic ministry can be summarized as judgment, renewal, and hope as he foretold Judah's Babylonian captivity as well as its return from exile and the coming of the Messiah. Tradition tells us Isaiah was eventually sawn in half during the reign of Manasseh.

Babylon. Babylon is an ancient city, and the name Babylon can be translated as "the gate of gods." It is mentioned in the Bible, along with Egypt, as the antithesis to God's people. When Israel sinned against God through idolatry and injustice, God allowed the Babylonians to punish Israel by sending Nebuchadnezzar to conquer Judah and send the Jews into exile. Babylon remained a superpower until the

Medes and Persians conquered Babylonia in 539 BC.

Background

Isaiah prophesies the demise of Babylon (Isaiah 45). Isaiah announces the conquest of Babylon by King Cyrus of the Medo-Persian Empire. This prophecy is linked to the salvation and restoration of Israel as they return from exile under Cyrus' reign. Babylon is condemned for its idolatry (Isaiah 46). The idols of Babylon are deemed powerless. They are made from created things and cannot save their worshipers. The reign of Babylon is over, and its gods cannot protect its people.

God calls the Babylonian sorcerers and astrologers to account (Isaiah 47). Their knowledge is world-renowned, but it is powerless against the sovereign judgment of the Lord. None of their astrological understanding or spells of witchcraft can prevent the disaster coming upon them. The once proud city will be humbled through the divine arrangement of its conquest by a foreign power.

What is bad news for the Babylonians is good news for the Jews. Because of Babylon's conquest, they will gain an ally in Cyrus who will give them freedom to return to their homeland and rebuild their capital Jerusalem as well as their Temple. God assures them no idol could have foretold these things and establishes His superiority over the gods and idols of other nations (Isaiah 48). He is God and He is in control of the destiny of not only Israel but all the nations of the globe.

At-A-Glance

1. The Pride of Babylon and Its Consequences (Isaiah 47:10–11)
2. False Trust in Babylon's Expertise (vv. 12–13)
3. The Ultimate Demise of Babylon (vv. 14–15)

In Depth

1. The Pride of Babylon and Its Consequences (Isaiah 47:10–11)

God, through Isaiah, calls out Babylon's prideful attitude. They have committed wickedness brazenly as if they were accountable to no one. The Babylonians were renowned for their knowledge, and this knowledge was the source of Babylon's pride. Because of this they put themselves in the place of God by saying, "I am, and none else beside me" (v. 10). These are proud, blasphemous words which display the inward attitude of the heart.

God would not allow Babylon to remain unpunished for this sin of pride. Calamity and disaster would come upon the city in the form of the Medo-Persian Empire and King Cyrus. None of Babylon's sorcery and knowledge could conjure an escape from the Medes and Persians.

Their kingdom would be taken over, and they could do nothing about it. As believers we have no reason to despair when proud and wicked rulers or leaders are in power. Eventually all of us will come before the judgment seat of God. There none of our knowledge, wealth, or social standing will be of any use—only whether we were righteous and humble before Him.

What is your response when you see wicked and proud people in power?

2. False Trust in Babylon's Expertise (vv. 12–13)

Isaiah mocks the knowledge and abilities of Babylon's sorcerers and astrologers. No matter what they do, they could not stop the judgment of God. Isaiah taunts them by pointing out that although they are experienced in enchantments and sorceries, they still will not withstand God's disaster. Astrology and sorcery were ways to control destiny. Babylon would soon face the truth that it was not in control of its destiny.

With all of their counselors, they weary themselves. They cannot figure a way out of their situation. Their astrologers try to predict an overturning of their fate, but it will not make a difference. Babylon's wisdom and knowledge will not be able to help it. Nothing they take pride in will pull them out of the ditch they dug for themselves through blasphemous pride and wickedness.

This same understanding of reality needs to be imprinted on our own hearts and minds. We are not in control, and any attempt to control our destiny is empty and vain. God is sovereign over our lives, and we need to look to Him for help. He controls our future and our destiny.

How do you respond to the fact that God controls your future and your destiny?

3. The Ultimate Demise of Babylon (vv. 14–15)

The astrologers and sorcerers of Babylon are compared to straw or stubble burning in the fire. They will not be able to save Babylon. Their fate was with the city and its empire. Looking to them for help would be fruitless. Sitting by their fire would bring no warmth. They can't save Babylon because they can't save themselves.

The nations who have dealt with Babylon since its origin will turn their backs on it. They will not help Babylon when calamity strikes. The pride of Babylon will be broken by the sovereign will of God. Babylon will have no way to escape it, no one to turn to, and no resources to meet this disaster.

Where do you turn when you are facing an impossible situation?

Search the Scriptures

1. What is Babylon's declaration of pride (Isaiah 49:10)?
2. What did Babylon rely on in times of disaster (vv. 12–13)?

Discuss the Meaning

1. What are the modern equivalents in our country to Babylon's knowledge and witchcraft? What do we trust in as a nation?
2. Why do people turn to things like astrology and witchcraft?

Liberating Lesson

We may be tempted to despair as we see the world and its leaders walk in pride and wickedness. When it comes to our own nation, hyper-patriotism and blind allegiance has puffed up many with misplaced pride. They believe we as a nation are superior to others and continually progressing toward increasing splendor. Our Scriptures tell us God is in control of the nations. He lifts up some and casts down others. Loyalty

to your country is a good thing but blind loyalty and pride absent of dependence on God is a path to ruin. We may despair at the injustice we see in the world, but God will call the nations to account for their pride and wickedness. Oppressive regimes and unjust laws are a result of human pride. But human pride will always be brought low under the sovereignty of God.

Application for Activation

No nation is beyond the pride we read about in Isaiah's description of Babylon. As individuals, we are equally in danger of exhibiting this kind of pride. In the coming week, take some time to pray for our nation and its leaders. Also make a plan to serve others. This is a surefire way to root out pride in your life.

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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Say It Correctly

Jotham. JAW-thum.

Ahaz. AYE-hazz.

Manasseh. Mah-NAH-suh.

Antithesis. an-TIH-thuh-siss.

Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY

Babylon's Days Are Numbered
(Jeremiah 29:8–14)

TUESDAY

Let Your Compassion Come Speedily
(Psalm 79)

WEDNESDAY

Persecution Foretold
(Mark 13:1–13)

THURSDAY

Keep Awake!
(Mark 13:28–37)

FRIDAY

Rise Up, O God!
(Psalm 74:10–23)

SATURDAY

The Humiliation of Babylon
(Isaiah 47:1–9)

SUNDAY

No Security in Wickedness
(Isaiah 47:10–15)

Notes

HOPE FOR THE WORLD

WEEKLY THEME:

GOD FORETELLS OF REDEMPTION

BASED ON:

Isaiah 49:1–11

LESSON AIM:

During this lesson, Jammers will:

KNOW: Explore the false security they find in people and things.

FEEL: Appreciate that all people who serve God are included in God’s promises.

DO: Create opportunities to praise God for the plan of redemption.

TARGET

In this passage Isaiah spoke about God’s Servant. Isaiah reminds the people they were created to be God’s people. Isaiah then transitions to describing one Redeemer who would open the Gospel to *all* people. God appointed a Redeemer to bring salvation to both Jews and Gentiles alike.

Isaiah speaks in first person, as God’s Servant the Savior. Isaiah 49:1–3 confirm the Servant’s life and purpose were planned from the beginning of time. He describes the Servant King who will restore Israel and bring salvation to all humankind. This passage foretells the Messiah. Isaiah reports to the people that in the end, the Messiah will succeed in bringing comfort, mercy, and most of all, salvation to the world. As Servant, the Messiah will be rejected and despised. As Savior, He will guarantee God’s promise of redemption for sin. As King, He will free all people and be revered by every nation. The suffering Servant will reign as King.

TOOLS

Bibles, student magazines, paper and pens or pencils for “Open the Lesson,” poster paper, markers, and a device for the YouTube music in “Got It!”

OPEN THE LESSON

Give each Jammer paper. *Without any explanation*, have Jammers make a list of things they couldn’t live without. Then ask them to circle things they literally could not live without, check things they wouldn’t want to live without, and cross out those things they really could live with-

out if they had to. Discuss why we feel this way about possessions. In what ways do possessions make us feel secure?

REALITY CHECK

Hope for the World

Tia nudged Andrew and said, “I know the teachers will choose you. You’re a true leader — just what the school’s community board needs. You’ll be able to convince everyone about your ideas for the youth center.” Andrew and Tia watched from the bleachers as teachers, school board members, and community leaders took seats onstage. The city’s mayor stepped to the podium.

“Students, as you know we are forming a council to help improve our city’s youth programs. We’ll have representatives from every local school. Your teachers and our city council carefully reviewed all the suggestions. We interviewed adults in the neighborhood for their input.

“This wasn’t an easy choice. We looked for a student with leadership qualities. We also want someone with the ability to encourage others, be a team player, and follow through with ideas. We need a hard worker, a *servant-heart*, if I can explain it that way. This student must also be willing to do the challenging work as well as lead others. Servant-heart work might not be noticed by many people, but this person will lead by example.

“We talked with a number of students. We learned one girl’s vision as she told us about many of you. When we talked with teachers and community leaders we heard more about this student.

For this reason, we believe Tia Arthur will be a great community leader,” said the mayor.

Tia felt her face turn hot as students quickly looked at her and applauded. Andrew grinned broadly and whispered, “You have my vote, too! I’d be happy to help you.”

Later that day, Tia and Andrew saw Pastor Snelling at church youth group. “I heard about your new job, Tia. The council made a fine choice. We’re all here to help you. I’ll be praying for you. God will use you as a light in our community. The council might have thought they were just adding a worker, but we know God is adding a light!”

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What qualities do you think adults noticed in Tia? What did Pastor Snelling mean when he said God was adding a light?

PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES IN MY HEART

Recite this verse: “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (from Isaiah 49:6, NIV).

WORD!

Explain that this passage is written as a conversation in first person. The Servant of the Lord, the light to all people, uses the word *I*. He tells what the Lord God said to Him. Ask volunteers to read what Christ said about Himself.

SIDEBAR

God Foretells of Redemption

Isaiah described true security as coming from God. He said the Savior would come in the form of a servant. People of Israel expected a redeemer. They looked for a person to bring hope and freedom. They did not anticipate one coming as a servant, to be rejected and suffer for their nation. “A day of salvation” for all people meant not only the Israelites would be redeemed, but God’s light of redemption brought hope for the entire world (Isaiah 49:8). Security cannot come from this world. Eternal security only comes through God’s servant, Jesus Christ.

EXPLORE THE MEANING

True Security

- S—Security
- E—Enters hearts
- C—Centered in Christ,
- U—Understanding that God wants *all* people to know Him,
- R—Relies on God’s plan for redemption,
- I—Illumines light, breaking through darkness
- T—Transforming lives through love’s salvation
- Y—Your hope. Your future.

GOT IT!

A. True Light

Jammers will use “WORD!” to help them with this activity.

“I will also **make you a light** for the Gentiles, that **my salvation** may **reach** to the **ends** of the **earth**” (Isaiah 49:6, NIV).

B. I Am a Light

Before class, prepare an area in the room to hang three posters. Label the posters as follows: My Home, My Community, My World. Review Isaiah 49:6 with Jammers. Play “Shine a Light,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxdGBQAd-pK0> by Elevation Worship as Jammers add ideas showing how they become lights in *their* world. Mount posters on the wall.

JAM SESSION

Hope for the World

Jammers will understand that even when they do not realize it, God works through youth committed to Him. Tia didn’t recognize her own abilities, but God knew! Community people noticed. Jammers will recall times when God worked through them.

NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION

JAM ON IT!

My Security Badge

Ask why people wear identification or security badges. Point out that the badge shows the wearer has a *higher authority*. Discuss the badge they wear as God’s light. Pray for Jammers to wear their imaginary Security Badge well.

God Foretells Redemption

Bible Background • ISAIAH 49:1-17

Printed Text • ISAIAH 49:1-11 | Devotional Reading • PSALM 111:9-10

Aim for Change

By the end of this lesson, we will UNDERSTAND that God’s mission for the people of Israel is to show all people the way to God, CELEBRATE that all people who serve God are included in God’s promises, and TELL others about God’s never-ending love and salvation for all people.

In Focus

For two centuries, African Americans were slaves with seemingly no hope of deliverance. As they toiled in wretched conditions, they sang songs and prayed prayers, hoping for relief. God heard their cries, and He allowed someone to rise among them. Her name was Harriet Tubman, and she was known as the “Moses” of her people.

Tubman was born in slavery and experienced many hardships. Unlike some who had accepted their lot, she longed for freedom. God did indeed allow her to escape the bonds of slavery. She enjoyed her freedom, but she couldn’t forget her brothers and sisters who were still in bondage. She returned to the South many times and led her people to freedom, just as Moses had done in Egypt for his people.

The slaves were clever. They included coded escape signals in their songs. After dark, “Steal Away” was the song used to signal slaves to move to a meeting place from which to escape to the North via the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman helped more than 300 slaves escape to freedom this way. And though she only delivered relatively few from the bonds of slavery, her heroic deeds focused attention on the need for emancipation. Moses, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., and others were powerful leaders led by God. Each came to lead a particular people at a particular time. However, Jesus came for ALL people and His great work has and will be felt through all eternity.

How have you helped spread the Word of God’s deliverance to all people?

Keep in Mind

“Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages.” (Isaiah 49:8, KJV)

Focal Verses

KJV **Isaiah 49:1** Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.

5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles,

that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

7 Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

8 Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

11 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

The People, Places, and Times

The Suffering Servant. Arising out of the complex prophecies of Isaiah, this enigmatic figure serves God and will suffer for others (see Isaiah 42:1–4; 49:1–7; 50:4–11; 52:13–53:12). In their original context, these passages attempt to explain the harsh suffering the Israelites would pass through during their exile.

One song explicitly identifies the servant as Israel (Isaiah 49:3). But the servant was also said to be God's perfect Servant, which can only be Jesus. This paradigm makes sense of the most difficult aspect of the Jesus tradition—His suffering. Equally important, it pointed to

the Gentiles as the object of God's healing and forgiveness alongside the Jews.

Background

God instructed His prophet, Isaiah, to write concerning Israel's captivity in Babylon. For seventy years, the nation suffered under this oppression. Then the Lord allowed them to return to Jerusalem. He gave them the resources to rebuild the Temple and establish themselves once again as God's representative.

But the Israelites got comfortable in Babylon. They became accustomed to the Babylonian ways and their gods. Most of the Israelites

refused to move. Only a small remnant traveled back to Judah.

God speaks through Isaiah about these upcoming problems (Isaiah 48). In the first part of the chapter, he rebukes their negative attitudes and behaviors. However, God changes His tone in the last half of the chapter. In several of the later chapters of Isaiah, the Lord offers hope and help with the promise of the Messiah's coming. Like a loving mother attempting to get her cranky toddler to take a nap, the Father begins to speak softly. He highlighted promises about a coming Savior, Jesus, to save Israel and the entire world.

Are you willing to move forward on God's promises? Or are you staying behind, enjoying Babylonian, worldly comforts?

At-A-Glance

1. The Servant's Call and Mission
(Isaiah 49:1–7)
2. The Servant Saves and Restores
(vv. 8–11)

In Depth

1. The Servant's Call and Mission (Isaiah 49:1–7)

In the book of Isaiah, four passages are called “the Servant Songs” (Isaiah 42–50). The second song found here outlines the coming Messiah's mission on earth. Jesus, God's redeemer, brings light, healing, and restoration. He offers His salvation promises to the Jewish people and the entire world.

God speaks through the Messiah in the first person. He asks for listening ears. His calling started in the womb of His mother. Before the Holy Spirit placed Jesus' embryo in Mary's body, the angel said, His name is Jesus, the Savior of all humanity (Luke 1:31).

Isaiah compared Jesus' mouth, His words, to instruments of war. The well-polished sword and the shaft pierces the intended target. God kept Jesus out of the main limelight until a particular time in history. At the appointed time, He introduced the Savior and His penetrating message (Galatians 4:4–5).

Isaiah calls the Servant, whom we now understand to be the Messiah, by the name Israel. This nation originally carried God's salvation message. When the Jewish people rebelled, the Messiah picked up the baton, committed to completing God's assignment.

God called Jesus to draw back the Israelites to Jehovah. God raised Him and gave Him the might and power to carry out the task. The first Christian missionaries and the authors of the Bible were Jewish people, God's instruments to introduce salvation to the world. The Servant fulfilled the covenant God made with the Israelites, and He is the actual covenant. Some of the Jewish people pushed Jesus aside, denying His claim as Messiah. They looked down upon Him, calling Him unclean, a liar. However, God viewed Him as valuable and deemed worthy of praise (1 Peter 2:4).

Jesus respected those in positions of authority in the secular government and within the Jewish religion. But both plotted against Him. When Jesus returns to the earth for the second time, He will be honored and worshiped. Rulers and every human being will prostrate before Him (Philippians 2:10–11).

How did Jesus complete the work that Israel was supposed to do?

2. The Servant Saves and Restores (vv. 8–11)

Jehovah heard the prayer of the Servant and helped Him fulfill a fruitful ministry. God is committed to lifting this universe out of its critical condition, placing His Spirit in desolate, godless places. His desire is for the

entire human race to know the truth through His Son Jesus.

God frees captives. God freed the captives in Babylon, and He offers freedom to all humanity bound in sin. It is now possible to bask in the presence of a Holy God—no sin hinders or divides (Isaiah 61:1).

Messiah bids everyone come openly to the light. Christ found the Jews enslaved to the law, covered in the darkness, and separated from God. Christ lifted their burdens. The Compassionate Shepherd is always leading to greener pastures. Jesus keeps His sheep away from the scorching sun, leads them to lush feeding grounds and fresh water. Even in places that are downtrodden and barren—God provides for His sheep.

These promises are not only for the Jewish nation or people in biblical days. Jesus still saves and restores anyone willing to come to Him.

In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul references these verses and explains that “today is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). How does this affect our reading of Isaiah?

Search the Scriptures

1. Use the Scripture verses in Isaiah 49:1–11 to describe the characteristics and mission of the Lord’s servant. (Example characteristics, v. 1 called before birth, v. 2 words of judgment are sharp, v. 3 a Servant; Example mission points: v. 1 wants people in distant and faraway lands to listen, v. 4 work seems useless)

2. In verse 1, Isaiah addresses the “isles,” meaning a place far, far away from him. What expression would we use today to confer this understanding?

Discuss the Meaning

The Scriptures clearly state Jesus’ job description. He came to seek and save humanity. His death on the Cross allowed freedom from the bondage of sin. This lesson reminds

Christians that the Savior is light out of darkness, He restores and is our Shepherd to lead us into His beautiful pastures. Think about the past couple weeks. How have you seen Jesus do this in your life? What kinds of people or things have you or others turned to instead of Christ to foster a better life?

Liberating Lesson

The word “servant” does not always sit well with African Americans. It rakes up pictures in our minds of Black people as slaves or only getting a job as a maid, driver, or butler. Yet, when the word “servant” is used in the Bible, God desires for Christians to have a different picture. Jesus came to serve all humanity. He, too, was mistreated and unappreciated. But He kept placing Himself in God’s protective hands, being assured of God’s watchful eye.

Get alone with God and express any anger or hostility you may feel about the mistreatment of people of color. Ask God to begin a transformation in your heart about how to be a true servant.

Application for Activation

Many individuals today continuously wonder, “What about me? What about me?” God saw the need for salvation. He sent Jesus to meet that need in our world, and Jesus completed God’s assignment. As Christians, we are to answer the same call. Pray for more sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as we go through our daily activities. How can I help those around me foster the same attitude and be less selfish and self-centered?

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

Sources:

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- Motyer, J. Alec. *Isaiah*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah: Chapters 40–66*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
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Say It Correctly

Enigmatic. eh-nig-MAH-tik.
Eunuch. YOU-nik.

Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY

God's Redemption Defies
Human Wisdom
(1 Corinthians 1:18–25)

TUESDAY

Righteousness, Sanctification,
and Redemption
(1 Corinthians 1:26–31)

WEDNESDAY

God Sent Redemption to God's People
(Psalm 111)

THURSDAY

Christ Brings Eternal Redemption
(Hebrews 9:11–14)

FRIDAY

Pardon My Guilt, O Lord
(Psalm 25:1–11)

SATURDAY

Redeem Israel, O God
(Psalm 25:12–22)

SUNDAY

The Lord Will Have Compassion
(Isaiah 49:1–11)

Notes
