

# Help Is on the Way



**I** was an embarrassment to my family and friends. I tried to find answers and get help, but I soon learned that wise answers couldn't come from the people who were sinning with me. I pushed everyone away from me, including God.

"It didn't take long before I broke laws and ended up in jail for a while. I was poor, my family wanted to disown me, and I couldn't believe God cared anymore. Then, Pastor Wills began visiting me. I learned that the Sovereign Lord is my Redeemer. When I put my hope in Him, I was not disappointed. He restored my life.

"I asked Jesus to be my Savior and Lord. Today, I want to be baptized to tell everyone what God already did in my heart. He restored me completely," said Dad.

Angela looked from the video to the baptistry. "Thank You, God, for making my dad new again," she whispered in prayer.

Later that day, Angela, Antonio, Mama, and Dad sat around the dinner table. Mama suggested, "Let's make a 'thank-You' list of all the ways God restored our family." Together the family called out the many ways God changed what seemed impossible years ago into something beautiful today. They praised God.

## In My Heart

*"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips'" (Isaiah 49:22, NIV).*

## WORD!

**Isaiah 49:18–26, NIV**—Lift up your eyes and look around; all your children gather and come to you. As surely as I live," declares the LORD, "you will wear them all as ornaments; you will put them on, like a bride. **19** "Though you were ruined and made desolate and your land laid waste, now you will be too small for your people, and those who devoured you will be far away. **20** The children born during your bereavement will yet say in your hearing, 'This place is too small for us; give us more space to live in.' **21** Then you will say in your heart, 'Who bore me these? I was bereaved and barren; I was exiled and rejected. Who brought these up? I was left all alone, but these—where have they come from?'" **22** This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips. **23** Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who hope in me will not be disappointed." **24** Can plunder be taken from warriors, or captives be rescued from the fierce? **25** But this is what the LORD says: "Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce; I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save. **26** I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine. Then all mankind will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

## SIDEBAR

### God's Restored People Shall Prosper

God's restoration of His people is an undeserved reward after their exile to Babylon. Their disobedience and complaining did not help their situation. God recognized their need despite their faults. Isaiah shows us the immutable and unchanging nature of God—His lovingkindness and tender mercies. God sees us at our worst and, because we are His chosen, He grants us grace despite our shifting attitudes toward Him.

### Knowing I Am Restored

**R** — Redeemed completely.

**E** — Eternally saved.

**S** — Secure in His love.

**T** — Thanking God.

**O** — Oppression ends.

**R** — Relying on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me.

**E** — Experiencing freedom.

**D** — Declared righteous before God forever.

## GOT IT!

### A. God Delivers

Answer the following questions.

1. Who is on their way? (Isaiah 49:18) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What will happen to those who destroyed you? (verse 19) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What happened after the people experienced desolation and no children? (verse 20) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Whom will the Sovereign Lord call and lead with His banner? (verse 22) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What will you know? (verse 23) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. God Restores

Break into small groups. Look at WORD! Your teacher will guide you as you think about these questions.

1. How has God changed desolation in your lives to good? (Isaiah 49:18–19)

2. What good might come out of times of suffering? (verses 21–22)
3. How do you know God is leading you? (verses 22–23)
4. Can you say, "When I hope in the Lord, I will not be disappointed"? (based on verse 23)

## JAM SESSION

### Help Is on the Way

Many Jammers trust that God is love and that He is with you during tough times as well as during times of ease. You hope in a world where peace, freedom, and justice reign. Unfortunately, you also know life can be tough. Like Angela's dad, people make ungodly decisions, and those decisions eventually lead to destruction. God's blessing is a gift to each person who places his hope in God. God will not disappoint. Angela's dad needed to *choose* to accept God's salvation. He needed to choose to believe God's promises. In the space below, answer these questions:

1. *Have you placed your hope in Christ?* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Do you believe God will keep His promises?* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Talk with your leader or other Jammers. List two ways to keep your focus and hope on God's promises.* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## JAM ON IT!

### Bring Hope

Think of someone you know who is going through a tough time. Pray for that person. Ask God to show you ways to share the hope you have in the Lord as found in Isaiah 49:23.

## LAST JAM

**When I hope in the Lord, I will not be disappointed!**

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.

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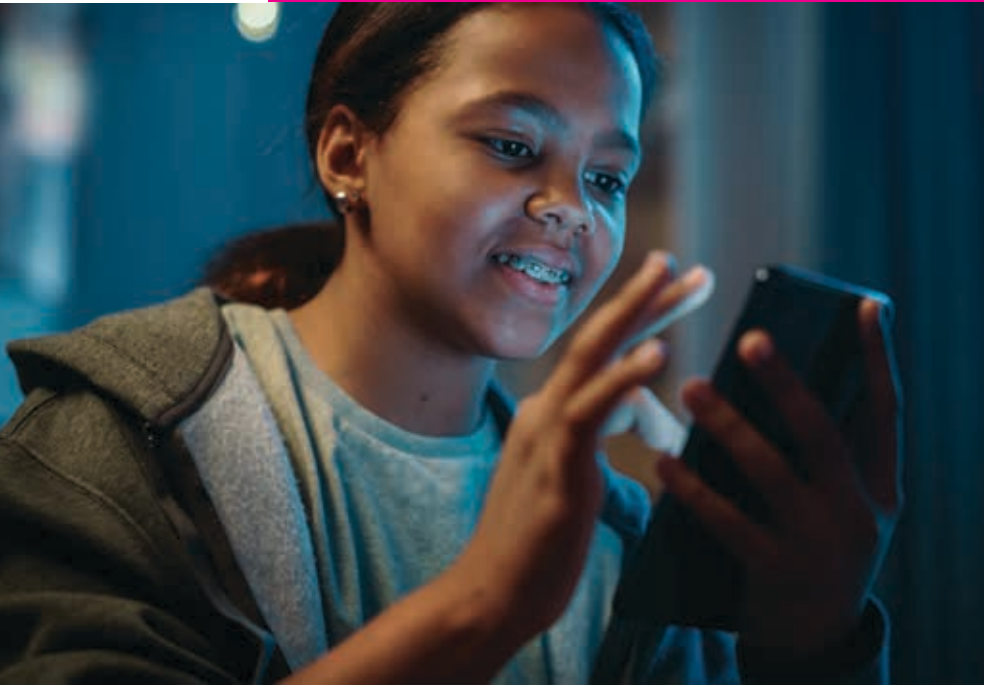
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**J**essica could not wait until her 13th birthday! If she proved she was responsible, her parents promised she could have a smartphone. Many of Jessica's friends already had smartphones and were trading pictures and using popular social media apps. All Jessica could do on her phone was make and receive phone calls. It was so embarrassing.

Jessica's parents were very cautious. They were always talking about the dangers of having those applications when you were not mature enough to handle it. Because she was maintaining her grades, completing her household chores, and staying out of trouble at school, church, and home, they were feeling confident that she was mature enough to adhere to the rules they would set for her use of the phone. As her birthday approached, they sat her down and discussed their rules. She could not send suggestive pictures to boys. She had to turn her phone off by 9 p.m. She could not visit suspicious websites. She could not give her number out to strangers. They would check her phone periodically just to ensure everything was going OK. Jessica was fine with the rules because she knew they were just trying to protect her. Honestly, she just wanted to have a phone like everybody else. She would have agreed to anything.

When her 13th birthday arrived, the family car broke down. She did not get her phone. Her parents could no longer afford it. Jessica was devastated but she knew her parents would get the phone as soon as they were able. A month later, her father surprised her with the phone. She was so excited; she immediately called her best friend so they could talk through video. Even though she had to wait, she was glad that she could trust her parents to do what they said.

## In My Heart

*"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations"*  
(Isaiah 51:4, NIV).

## WORD!

**Isaiah 51:1–8, NIV**—"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; **2** look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. **3** The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. **4** "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. **5** My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. **6** Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. **7** "Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. **8** For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations."

# SIDEBAR

## God Offers Deliverance

According to the passage, God offers deliverance to those who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord. God honors those who actively seek Him and His ways. In Isaiah's day, the Israelites followed God's laws despite their environment that celebrated other gods. Believers today must do the same. It can be easy to go with the flow and follow the ways of the world. It seems that everybody is doing it. Yet, God only works on behalf of those who desire to follow Him. Following the world will lead to bondage, following God will lead to freedom. Seeking the Lord and pursuing righteousness requires making time to read God's Word, pray, worship, and practice other disciplines.

## Waiting for Deliverance

- D**—Don't look to others. Look to God for deliverance.
- E**—Even when it feels like God has forgotten about you, know that God cares!
- L**—Lean not to your own understanding but acknowledge God (Proverbs 3:5–6).
- I**—I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13).
- V**—Value the time spent waiting on God. It will build your faith in Him.
- E**—Every challenge is an opportunity to experience God's mighty power.
- R**—Remember, God keeps His promises.

## GOT IT!

### A. The Promise of Deliverance

Use WORD! to help you answer the following questions:

1. Whom should the Israelites look to as an example of God's deliverance? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What should the Israelites listen to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What two things will last forever and what will fade away? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## B. God Restores

God pays attention to those who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord. On the board, write the word *righteous* vertically to begin making an acrostic. As a group, use each letter in *righteous* to describe ways believers demonstrate righteousness today.

# JAM SESSION

## Teaching Freedom

God promised to deliver Israel from bondage and restore their homeland with joy and gladness, but they waited 70 years for this promise to be fulfilled. Jessica waited a while for her parents' promise to be fulfilled also. Yet, she had faith that her parents would honor their word even though financial issues interrupted plans. We can trust God even when circumstances look bleak. God can be trusted because He always honors His promises. Do not allow waiting to discourage you from believing that God remembers His promise to you. God keeps His promises. *How do you know when you can trust someone's word? Has waiting ever caused you to doubt a promise given or the promise giver? Why or why not?*

## JAM ON IT!

### Stories of Deliverance

Journal about a time when you needed to be delivered. Make time this week to ask your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles about a time when God delivered them from a troubling situation.

# LAST JAM

**God will deliver those who seek and follow Him!**

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.

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