

 PRIMARY STREET<sup>®</sup>

# teacher

A young girl with dark skin and braided hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a blue and white horizontally striped t-shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage and a bright sky.

**Partners**  
in a **New Creation**

# DEAR PRIMARY TEACHER

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

Unit I, "God Delivers and Restores," features four lessons drawn from three chapters of Isaiah. The lessons explore 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.

The five lessons of Unit II, "The Word: The Agent of Creation," are 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 peace through the Holy Spirit.

Unit III, "The Great Hope of the Saints," is a four-lesson study drawn from Revelation. The study helps 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.

The *Primary Street*® student and teacher curriculum is designed to help you present Bible Stories and Scriptural principles to primaries so they will love the Lord Jesus and begin to please God through obedience to His Word. We start with the Scripture passages chosen by the International Uniform Lesson Series. From there, we have written knowledge, attitude, and action objectives. The knowledge objectives define the biblical facts and understanding that we want the children to learn. The attitude objectives tell us the changes we desire to see in the children's hearts. The action objectives provide immediate behavioral changes that will be accomplished in their lives. Please notice how these objectives are outlined at the beginning of each teacher's lesson.

Teaching aids, such as *Craft Kingdom*®, *Scripture Scenes*®, and the *Teaching Success Kit*, are sold separately. The *Sing-Along* CD is provided in the *Teaching Success Kit*. These wonderful materials enhance the learning experience by reinforcing the lesson concepts through intentional and fun activities such as games, puzzles, skits, and a variety of small projects that children can take home. Look for specific references to these materials throughout the lessons, and enjoy the opportunity to extend your teaching experience.

We hope you enjoy this quarter, and we pray that the materials will provide a joyous teaching and learning experience for you and your students.

Sincerely,

Melissa Moore  
*Primary Street*® Editor

# ONE-HOUR CLASS SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	LENGTH	PURPOSE
<b>OPEN THE LESSON:</b> Focus Activity	10 minutes	Gathers the class and identifies what students already know about the topic.
<b>PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES:</b> Life Application Story (student folder—page 1)	8 minutes	Introduces the Bible theme through an age-appropriate, reader-friendly story.
<b>Bible Story</b> (student folder—page 2)	8 minutes	Provides a Bible Story written specifically for young readers to read.
<b>EXPLORE THE MEANING:</b> Review	4 minutes	Provides discussion questions, games, and presentation ideas to help students show their understanding of the Bible Story and theme.
<b>Memory Verse</b>	5 minutes	Provides active strategies for students to memorize or enhance understanding of the Memory Verse.
<b>NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION:</b> Be Smart and Good Attitude (student folder—pages 3 and 4)	10 minutes	Relates directly to the lesson aims by using pencil and paper activities to help students express what they are learning.
<b>Worship Time</b>	5 minutes	Helps students focus on God and applies the lesson to their situations through age-appropriate activities.
<i>Craft Kingdom</i> <sup>®</sup>	10 minutes	Reinforces the topic and aids students in sharing the lesson with parents through take-home projects that are created in class.

## NOTES

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# T4T—TIPS FOR TEACHERS

## 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 example you show your students gives them the opportunity to experience an aspect of Christian ministry and service that can 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.

## 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.

# NOTHING IS HIDDEN

## WEEKLY THEME:

GOD FORETELLS DESTRUCTION

## BASED ON:

Isaiah 47:10–15, NIV

## KEY VERSE:

Isaiah 47:15, NIV

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

**Knowledge:** Primaries will review Isaiah’s message through a word bank activity.

**Attitude:** Primaries will identify the importance of being repentant for their sins and want to confess them to God.

**Action:** Primaries will confess their sins by writing them down and throwing them in the trash.

## DEAR TEACHER

Your primaries will learn that nothing is hidden from God’s sight. God saw the evil that Babylon was doing. He sees the good and bad that we do, too.

## SUPPLY LIST

SECTION	MATERIALS
Focus Activity	Magnifying glasses (one per child), objects to inspect: leaves, sticks, rocks, breakfast cereal, fruit etc.
Review	Tape, scissors, wood blocks, foam blocks, or other building materials, timer, ball, beanbag, or small stone
Worship Time	Strips of purple paper (approximately 4”x 1”; one per child)

## OPEN THE LESSON

### Focus Activity

*Before class:* Gather several small natural objects (such as rocks, twigs, or leaves) and child-size magnifying glasses.

*During class:* Draw a 4 x 4 chart on a board. Write these headings in the first row of each column: Object, What I See. Depending on the size of your classroom and number of children, set up several observation stations and place the items and magnifying glasses at the stations. You might want to provide disposable trays or another type of container to group the objects. As the children arrive, have them go to an observation station. Tell them to use the magnifying glasses to look at the objects. Encourage your primaries to discover “hidden” things on the objects and share their findings. As they share

their observations, record them on the chart. You may choose to copy and distribute the chart provided in the *Teaching Success Kit*, having the children work in pairs or groups.

## PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES

### Life Application Story

*(Distribute the student folders.)*

Before reading, survey the children, “Who plays Hide-n-Seek? What are your favorite places to hide?” Let the children share. Say, “Today we’re going to read a story about an unexpected discovery during a game of Hide-n-Seek.” While reading, pause after the sentence, “Oh no! You’ve found my secret cave!” Ask, “What do you think Jay’s secret cave is? Where do you think it is? What did he have in there?” Continue reading.

After reading, ask the children, “Who else knew about Jay’s cave even before his friend did? Is there anything or anywhere that we can hide from God?”

### **Bible Story**

#### *Nothing Is Hidden*

*The Bible Story in the student folders is designed for primary students to read. The Scripture Scene® is provided as a visual aid. Be sure to study the information on this Bible passage in the white pages of the Teacher Guide.*

Isaiah was God’s prophet. God spoke to him, and he listened. Isaiah told Babylon God’s words. “God has a warning for you. You are not trusting Him. You pray to idols. You practice magic. You trust in the stars. You do evil secretly. You think that no one sees. But God sees! He sees, and He is angry. You are sinning, and you are not sorry. So, disaster is coming. No magic will stop it. No idol can save you.”

### **EXPLORE THE MEANING**

#### **Review**

Arrange the class into groups of three. Distribute materials to each group. Say, “Babylon was a strong city. But God was far more powerful. Today we are going to try and build the strongest structures we can.” Set a timer for approximately five minutes. Encourage each group to build the strongest structure they can. When the timer goes off, say, “The only way to determine which structure is truly the strongest is to find out which one can withstand disaster.” Line the children up. Give them each a turn to toss a ball, beanbag, or small stone at each structure. Discuss what made the remaining structure the strongest.

#### **Memory Verse**

*“You have trusted in your wickedness”* (from Isaiah 47:10, NIV).

Use American Sign Language to teach the main words of this verse. For “You,” have students point outward. For “trusted,” have students touch their forehead with their index finger and then let their hand fall into their other hand near their belly. For “wickedness,” have them flatten their hand and touch the tips of their fingers to their chin and then

abruptly turn their palm downward as they pull their hand down and away. Repeat the movements several times without words and then with them. Explain that we should put our trust in God and He will always bring about the best in our lives.

### **NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION**

#### **Be Smart**

##### *Hidden in Babylon*

Read the directions. Children should choose words from the Word Bank that correctly complete each sentence. They should then write the circled letter from each word on the blank line to see another part of Isaiah’s message. **Answers:** 1. God, 2. idols, 3. Disaster, 4. sinning, 5. evil, secret, 6. sorry, 7. Magic, 8. Babylon, 9. listened, 10. God sees all.

#### **Good Attitude**

##### *Saying Sorry*

Read the directions. Encourage the children to take a moment to think of something they have done wrong. They should then complete the letter. **Answers:** Answers will vary.

#### **Worship Time**

Have your primaries listen to a song about forgiveness. Then play it again, encouraging them to sing along.

Say, “I’m going to hand you a piece of paper that represents your sin. In a moment, you’ll get a chance to confess your sin to God and then quietly toss your paper in the trash (point to the trash can). When we ask for forgiveness, God puts our sins out of His mind in a similar way.” Hand each child a strip of purple paper. Have the children close their eyes. Offer a general prayer of confession for all the children and thank God for His forgiveness. Then pause and encourage the children to pray by themselves. After a few moments, close the prayer and encourage those who haven’t thrown out their purple paper to do so.

#### **Craft Kingdom®**

*Craft Kingdom®* provides directions to make a craft that reinforces the lesson. Play the *Sing-Along* CD as students work.

# God Foretells Destruction

**Bible Background • ISAIAH 47**

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

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## Aim for Change

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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.

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## In Focus

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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?*

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## Keep in Mind

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"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

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**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.

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### 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:

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### Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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**Sources:**

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- Walton, John H., Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chavalas. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

## 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

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# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

## WEEKLY THEME:

GOD FORETELLS OF REDEMPTION

## BASED ON:

Isaiah 49:1–11, NIV

## KEY VERSE:

Isaiah 49:8, NIV

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

**Knowledge:** Primaries will identify the Messiah as God’s plan to save the world.

**Attitude:** Primaries will share how Jesus can be a superhero to one of their friends.

**Action:** Primaries will play a game to demonstrate behavior changes.

## DEAR TEACHER

Your primaries will learn that God’s Word is a light to the world. Jesus lived God’s Word and now it is our job as Christians to spread His light.

## SUPPLY LIST

SECTION	MATERIALS
Focus Activity	Images of superheroes
Review	Cardstock, scissors, Memory Verse game pieces
Worship Time	Marker

## OPEN THE LESSON

### Focus Activity

Show images of superheroes and see how many the primaries can name. Have them brainstorm others. Talk about what each of their superpowers is and how they use them for good.

## PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES

### Life Application Story

*(Distribute the student folders.)*

Before reading, ask the children, “Who is your favorite superhero and why?” Listen to their answers. Say, “Today we are going to read about someone you know that is a superhero.”

While reading, pause after the sentence, “What are you drawing?” Ask the children what they think Mikey is drawing. Accept a few suggestions. Continue reading.

After reading, ask the children, “In what other ways is Jesus like a superhero?”

### Bible Story

*Hope for the Future*

*The Bible Story in the student folders is designed for primary students to read. The Scripture Scene® is provided as a visual aid. Be sure to study the information on this Bible passage in the white pages of the Teacher Guide.*

Long ago, the prophet Isaiah spoke. He had words for everyone to hear.

He said, “Listen! God has a plan. He created me to share it. He gave me strong words. He wanted those words to rescue His people. God’s words would be their light. His words would show them their sins. They would make them want forgiveness. They would make them good. But there’s more to God’s plan. There’s Jesus! Jesus lived God’s words. Now everyone can see how to live. Everyone can see they’re in darkness. Everyone can come into God’s light. Even kings will respect the light. Even kings will shine!”

## EXPLORE THE MEANING

### Review

Have the children stand in a circle so there are a few feet between them. Choose one student to stand in front and lead a sitting game of “Simon Says.” Instead of saying the action, the child will do the action after saying, “Simon says.” Before beginning, dim the lights in the room. Have the children try to follow the game in the dark. Talk about how difficult it is to do the action they are being asked to perform when they cannot see well. Pause the game and fully light the room. Resume the game. Point out how much easier it is to do the right action when there is enough light to see. Discuss how Jesus is like light. His life is like a light for us. It helped us see how to live right. If children need more engagement, play the fun game based on a popular quiz show in the *Teaching Success Kit*.

### Memory Verse

*“In the time of my favor I will answer you”*  
(from Isaiah 49:8, NIV).

*Before class:* Use a computer to create and print out the Memory Verse, using a large font. Cut the words apart to create the game pieces. You may choose to write the words in large letters on cardstock.

*During class:* Distribute the words and have the children work together to figure out the Memory Verse. Talk about how much easier it is to do the right thing when you have a good example. Jesus is our good example!

## NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION

### Be Smart

#### Story Riddle

Read the directions. Work with the class to figure out the answer to item number 1 and spell the word “Isaiah” as the students write the letters on the lines. Have the children work in pairs to complete the remaining exercise items. **Answers:** 1. Isaiah; 2. darkness; 3. Light; 4. Jesus; 5. Everyone; 6. shine.

### Good Attitude

#### Jesus, My Hero

Read the directions. Work together as a class to determine the pairs. **Answers:** fear (peace), death (life), sadness (joy), hate (love). If time allows, ask if anyone would like to share a time when Jesus saved them. (Perhaps they were afraid and when they prayed God sent them help or gave them peace.) Ask, “Who do you know who needs to be saved by Jesus? Answers may vary.

### Worship Time

Have your primaries sit. List popular superheroes together. For each, ask how Jesus is similar to them. List some of the superhero traits of God. (all-knowing, strong, perfect, loving, merciful, just, all-powerful, etc.). As you pray, thank God for the many ways that He saves us daily. Ask Him to help each child think of a friend that needs to know Jesus can save them, too.

### Craft Kingdom®

*Craft Kingdom®* provides directions to make a craft that reinforces the lesson. Play the *Sing-Along* CD as students work.

## NOTES

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# 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

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**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:

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## Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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### Sources:

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- 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

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