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Junior Way

THE STUDENT MAGAZINE FOR URBAN JUNIORS

**Partners
IN A NEW
CREATION**



Isaiah 47:10–15, NIV—You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’

[V. 10—The people trusted in their own knowledge. The smarter they became, the more they trusted in themselves.]

11 Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away. A calamity will fall upon you that you cannot ward off with a ransom; a catastrophe you cannot foresee will suddenly come upon you.

[V. 11— The result of relying on anything but God is destruction.]

12 “Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries, which you have labored at since childhood. Perhaps you will succeed, perhaps you will cause terror. **13** All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you.

[Vv. 12–13—Isaiah taunted the people by telling them to call on their magic and astrologers. Nothing will save, but God.]

14 Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. These are not coals for warmth; this is not a fire to sit by. **15** That is all they are to you—these you have dealt with and labored with since childhood. All of them go on in their error; there is not one that can save you.

What I Have Learned

Unscramble the words to find practices against God.

1. **tnemtnahcne** _____
2. **syrréco** _____
3. **aegloorrsst** _____
4. **ztsrrgeaa** _____
5. **ylhtnom srotacitsongorp**

Talk with your leader to learn how these beliefs in creation are against God, the Creator.

Keep In Mind

“You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’”
(Isaiah 47:10, NIV).

Choosing What’s Best

Think about *your* thoughts and actions. In today’s story Shayla was playing with poison. All people sin, but that doesn’t make it okay. Cross out the ideas below that you might trust in besides God.

- Being smart or good in school
- Bible knowledge
- Friends’ opinions
- Horoscopes
- My reputation
- Attending church
- Being a “nice” person
- Money
- Pride in my accomplishments

Ask God to show you anything in your life that you are depending on besides Him. Sign your name below the prayer if you prayed it to God.

*Dear God,
I confess I trust in things other than Your Word and Your Truth. I’m sorry. Please forgive me, God. Show me how to say “no” to sin. I want to worship You alone.*

Signed: _____

Doing My Part

Take a careful look at your life this week. Do you have sites on your phone or computer distracting you from God? Are you playing around with poisonous ideas “for fun?” Today you learned about these destructive elements of which God would not approve. Your challenge this week is to “clean house.” Get rid of anything in your life that has the potential to separate you from God. Choose to distance yourself from people encouraging you to spend time doing questionable activities. Ask a parent or friend to hold you accountable and check on how you’re doing.



Hope for the World

What’s It All About?

“Why the sad face?” Dad asked Derek when he got in the car at school.

“I wanted the lead part in our class play. Instead, Mr. Strain gave it to Michael,” Derek said. “I didn’t even try for any other parts. Everyone knows I’m the best reader in class. I’d have made a perfect King George. Instead, I got the part of King George’s servant!”

Dad listened. “Did you ask Mr. Strain about his decision?” he asked.

“Yeah,” Derek said. “Mr. Strain said something about the servant plays a key role. Mr. Strain wants me to help the rest of the class. He had his reasons and a plan, I guess. But I just wanted to be the lead. You know I’d make a great king, Dad.”

Two weeks later...

Dad asked, “How’s that play, Derek?”

“Really good. Yesterday, I helped friends memorize a rhyme that the servant says with the common people. They were all excited. Then, I explained to Michael how to sound more like a king in the first scene. He acted like he wasn’t listening, but later he used my ideas and sounded great. And then, Mr. Strain asked if I had time to design the set,” Derek exclaimed.

“It looks like your teacher knew exactly where you needed to be. He must have wanted you to help the others, not just strut around like a king,” Dad said, laughing.

How would you feel if you were Derek, expecting the lead role in the play but not getting it? How did he make the best of the situation? What might have happened if Derek had a bad attitude?



Learning From God

God planned for the salvation of the world to come in His way, at His timing, and with His purpose. Isaiah tells of God’s plan to bring hope to the world through a Servant. Jesus came as a Servant, but He was a different kind of servant than most people think. Yahweh’s Servant showed power and leadership.

Isaiah 49:1–13, NIV—Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name. **2** He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and

concealed me in his quiver.

[V. 2—This Servant speaks words that judge.]

3 He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”

[V. 3—This Servant brings glory to God.]

4 But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD’s hand, and my reward is with my God.” **5** And now the LORD says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—**6** he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” **7** This is what the Lord says—the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: “Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

[V. 7—*This Servant, who was despised, will be worshiped by all.*]

8 This is what the LORD says: “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, **9** to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’ “They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. **10** They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. **11** I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. **12** See, they will come from afar—some from the north, some from the west, some from the region of Aswan.” **13** Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

[Vv. 9–13—*This Servant will bring comfort and mercy to people.*]

What I Have Learned

Isaiah described the coming Servant. Draw lines to match each statement with its meaning.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword.	People will reject the Servant.
I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain.	God planned all this before birth.
The Lord formed me from the womb to be his servant.	The Redeemer’s word will bring judgment.
God shall be my strength.	God used the Servant to bring comfort and mercy.
The Lord has comforted his people and shown mercy on the afflicted.	The Servant depended on God.

Who is Isaiah writing about in this passage?

Keep In Mind

“He says: ‘It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. 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).

Choosing What’s Best

In our lesson, Isaiah described God’s plan to send the Messiah as a Servant. He was not treated as a King. In “Hope for the World,” Derek didn’t receive the lead part he thought he deserved. Think of a time you were treated more like a servant than a king. On the lines below, write a prayer of praise to thank God for what you learned through His plan.

Doing My Part

This week, pay close attention to how people serve God through their actions. Take time to say, “Thank you” or let them know you appreciate what God is doing through them.