

inteen®

the award-winning student magazine for urban teens

Partners
in a New
Creation



Partners in a New Creation

Dear Student,

The study this quarter begins with the words from the prophet Isaiah. His words of warning serve as a guide for our theme this quarter. God's judgment never comes without warnings and opportunities for repentance. Time and time again, God's Word is ignored and we often attribute our success to other sources.

As you study this quarter, take note of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. His ministry of reconciliation, restoration, and redemption is key to success in the lives of every believer. Allow God's Word to challenge your spiritual status and perhaps create a ripple effect that will spill into the lives of those around you. How can you join with God in the work that He is already doing?

From Isaiah to Revelation, these accurate, inerrant accounts serve as a testimony to the reality of Jesus as the source for redemption. Embedded in these lessons is the source of hope for the sick, healing for the wounded, salvation for the lost through Jesus Christ. This is not our final home, and we rest in the assurance that God has prepared a place for the redeemed! Allow *Inteen*® to assist your spiritual growth, as you endeavor to become the person Jesus has called and designed you to be!

My prayer is that you boldly, unashamedly, consistently, take up your cross to follow God!

Peace,

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Do you have suggestions for *Inteen*®? I want to hear from you! Send your thoughts to the editor.



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Jonathan was a high school chess champion. He started playing chess with his grandfather when he was a child. He picked it up fast and was very good. As good as any adult who had played for years!

He was used to competing and winning with ease, so over time, he stopped practicing with his team. Even when it came to the prestigious national championships, he was arrogant. “You guys need practice, not me,” he declared as he packed his bag up.

“Jonathon, we *all* need practice and to study the competition’s techniques. This is the national championship. Every player here is the best of the best, and they’ll all be practicing. Plus, we start early. We need to practice and rest up so we’re ready for the early start.”

Jonathan gave a dismissive wave to his teammates and made his way back to his room at the hotel. *I don’t need this. I’m already the best*, he thought.

Instead, Jonathan stayed up all night playing video games and eating junk food.

He slowly woke up the next morning and jumped when he saw the clock. He was LATE. He had 10 minutes to get to the start of the competition.

He got dressed as quickly as possible and ran to the competition site, but he was too late. “I’m just two minutes late. Let me play! I’m the standing champion!”

“Sorry,” the competition director said, “no late entries allowed, that’s the rule.”

Jonathan lost his title just like that.

from your Bible

Isaiah 47:10–15, NIV—You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me.’ Your wis-

dom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’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.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.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.**

Scripture discussion

Babylon was a wealthy, powerful, and very wicked country that set itself as an enemy of God. Their wickedness was so deep that the name “Babylon” is still used by the church to describe a godless empire or culture (1 Peter 5:13; Revelation 17–18). Although Babylon was, at one time, a powerful nation, its idolatrous ways led to destruction. Our passage today,

first reflects how seriously God takes idolatry. Idolatry is putting anything before God. Babylon credited their success to other gods, the stars, and even themselves! The prophet Isaiah foretells of God’s judgment and destruction. This passage is a warning and a promise that God will not allow sin to go unchecked. He is constantly watching and there is no success without God. Their prideful hearts set them on a path of destruction.

make it real



check it

1. What led Jonathan to the place he found himself in?
2. Do you think it was fair for him to be removed from competing?
3. In your opinion, what is the best way to deal with people who are arrogant? Is it possible to help them see their ways?



think it

1. Why were the people in sin? (Isaiah 47:10)
2. In whom did they trust? (v. 13)
3. Will they overcome their consequences? (v. 15)



do it

In today’s lesson, you learned that idolatry, putting things before God, along with an arrogant heart can lead to destruction. How can you avoid such calamity? How is the Holy Ghost speaking in your life? How can you plan to walk in obedience?



keep it

“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” (Isaiah 47:15, NIV).

6.12 A Mission to Save

the big idea:
God Foretells
of Redemption



Janice sat stunned as tears filled her eyes. “I can’t believe it. I’m actually a millionaire!”

Janice had grown up in a bad neighborhood. Both of her parents weren’t around, and her grandmother raised her along with some of her cousins. Janice wasn’t a great student because life was so distracting. She always had to share her space, she didn’t have everything she needed, and there were nights when she went to bed hungry. It’s not that she hated school, it was just that everything was stacked against her.

“She’ll probably just end up pregnant and drop out like the others,” she overheard her guidance counselor say once. She left school and never came back. She felt hopeless.

After dropping out of high school, Janice found a job as a cashier at a gas station. A regular customer, a businesswoman took an interest in her. She could tell Janice was smart and a hard worker, she just needed an opportunity for something better. She offered to hire Janice to work at her company.

Over the years, Janice learned the ins and outs of the business and eventually secured the money to branch out and start a company on her own. Just a couple of years in, Janice hit her goal of making her first million.

It was all possible because a businesswoman recognized her talent and gave her an opportunity.

from your Bible

Isaiah 49:1–11, 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.³ He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display

my splendor.”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.”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.

Scripture discussion

The Children of Israel learned the hard way. They went from being richly blessed to forgetting God, which ultimately led them into captivity. Israel turned away from God which affected their ability to be a light in the world. Despite their sins, God would redeem them—restore them spiritually. God’s mission did not change; He still wanted His people to be a light

to the world and help provide freedom from oppression and captivity. Captives cannot free themselves, so God planned to send the Messiah. The passage today describes the coming Messiah, described by Simeon in Luke 2:25–35. He is described as a redeemer for the nation of Israel, but also as a savior for the world. The Messiah is described as the true “Israel” because He will do what the nation could not. Isaiah describes Him both as a temporary king and the timeless Savior.

make it real



check it

1. How could you be a good friend to someone like Janice?
2. What kind of life would Janice have had without the opportunity provided by the businesswoman?
3. Do you think it’s possible to have a disadvantaged start, but find success? What does it take for that to happen?



think it

1. Who is Isaiah called to reach? (Isaiah 49:6)
2. Read Luke 2:32 and take note of the descriptive similarities in Isaiah 49:6.
3. How can you partner with God to have compassion for others? (vv. 10, 13)



do it

In today’s lesson, you learned that God wants to redeem people from oppression and that we are called to work with God in doing so. In verse 6, we learn that we are called to be a light to others. How can you be that light to others?



keep it

“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’” (Isaiah 49:8, NIV).