

JANUARY 8, 2023

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

FLOCK LEADER GUIDE - SPARKHOUSE WHIRL LECONTIONARY

ISAIAH 42:1-9

The Servant of the Lord

42 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

2 He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

3 A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

4 he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

5 This is what God the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

6 “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,

7 to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

8 “I am the Lord; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.

9 See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

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WHAT DOES THIS STORY MEAN FOR KIDS?

All ages may need assistance to understand this bit of poetry as a prophetic message that God is going to send a “servant” as a messenger. Kids may also only see this as a piece of history (that is, a prophecy about the coming servant) and not as scripture that can speak to them today. They may need help understanding this scripture as indicating that we can all embody the idea of the chosen servant.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE STORY?

Isaiah includes four texts that are often called “Servant Songs”—songs about God’s “servant” and what the servant is supposed to do. This is the first of those four songs. The servant brings forth justice and teaches not only Israel, but all the nations of the earth. Isaiah often has a universal sensibility. The servant will bring about this justice nonviolently, with little noise or fanfare, and will not tire of this work. The justice he will enact is much like the traditional “works of mercy.” Sometimes the servant is understood to be Jesus, sometimes the people Israel, and sometimes just a person devoted to God.

GROUP QUESTIONS?

- What word pictures did you see in these verses?
- What did you find comforting?
- Which thing in verses 1-4 would you like God to say about you?
- What is a covenant?
- When have you been in a dark place in need of some light?

KEY POINT

Jesus brings God’s light to everyone in the world. No matter what you’re feeling, remember Jesus’ light is shining in our lives. It’s there when we celebrate, and it’s there when we need comfort.

PRAYER

God, as we go out, help us find a way to bring a little light to people we meet. Amen.

BIBLE BIT

Justice means putting things right—and always working to find things that need putting right.

JAN. MEMORY VERSE

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. - 1st Corinthians 1:18