

GOD'S JUST SERVANT

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 42

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 42:1-9

Key Verse: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1

Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV)

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes

from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

VOCABULARY

- **Abhor** – Regard with disgust and hatred.
- **Messiah** – The promised deliverer.

INTRODUCTION

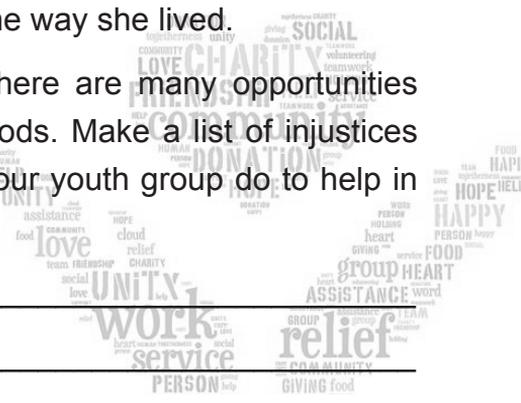
Moni was just back from her youth group's mission trip, and was still basking in the wonderful time she had. She was so inspired by the opportunity to spend an entire week helping those in need. When she was there, she spent her time teaching Bible lessons to little children and at a senior center listening to residents' stories. When Moni came back, she looked for things to do to maintain the feeling of being in God's presence. Moni began going to nursing homes and reading with the seniors during the week, and on the weekends she spent time at the local library teaching kids how to read.

There was another mission trip next year, and Moni really wanted to go. She asked her parents to help her with the money for the deposit, and she set out to find a job that would help her to pay the remainder. Moni really wanted to work in a place where she could do some of the things that she had come to love. As she searched the job boards, she targeted job descriptions that outlined the tasks that she knew she had experience with from her volunteer work.

After several weeks of looking and applying, Moni finally got a job doing just what she loved! She began working with children in a daycare. It paid more than she expected, so she was able to save all she needed for the next mission trip. Moni was really

excited about having an opportunity to make a difference, to help, to take a stand for God by the way she lived.

Activity #1: Be the Change. There are many opportunities to help people in our neighborhoods. Make a list of injustices in your community. What could your youth group do to help in these situations?



THE BIBLE STORY

This Isaiah text is a foretelling of Jesus’ coming and Jesus’ mission. He will come to set everything right, and will be servant of the world. Jesus’ “job description” is one that describes the word “servant.” Jesus’ entire life will be dedicated to serving, and working for justice on behalf of those in need. Jesus will serve the world with gentleness and meekness (not war and violence), be the Messiah, and be known throughout the world.

Jesus will be an encourager, stand for justice and truth, and will not tire because God’s very spirit will strengthen him. God will establish God’s new covenant through Jesus, calling Jesus whose purpose will include being a covenant keeper, an eye opener, a captive saver. Old things will pass away and become

new when justice prevails.

Activity #2: Make It Plain! From the Bible story above, what is the role that Jesus will play as liberator of the people?

LIFE APPLICATION

God's promise of justice is through Jesus, the coming Messiah. Jesus will be the light and the liberator of the world. The good news is that we have descriptions of the character of God's plan and Jesus' mission. We now have a clear picture of what God calls us to be like. Do you have some of the characteristics of Jesus in you? Do you have a mind to serve like the Messiah will? Our job may not include going all the way to the cross in order for people to understand the seriousness of God's new covenant. All we need do is trust by faith that modeling Jesus' character will take us where we need to go, and consistent.

It is important for us to hear ahead of time about the coming Messiah and all that he will do for us. It gives us hope. Hope is what guarantees us a future in Christ. It also sets us up for trusting the Messiah. The Messiah will be the liberator of us all!

Activity #3: The Job Description. Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the other cells with the same number.

VRTESNA
21 8

NESTESGNLE
9 17

NEEKEMSS
19 14 15

URHTT
3

GEUCORRANE
11 24

TIGHOSRUE
23 2

VACNEOTN
13 5

PEKREE
20

SOIMISN RRKEOW
22
10

RABTOLRIE
16 12

EHLAER
6

REPELH
25 7

VOLRE OF OGD
1
1

SEOHCN CAHGEN NETGA
4
18

J
1 2 3 4
5 6 7
8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25

SUMMARY

There is a certain excitement when we journey through the Bible and read about all the trials people endured in the Old Testament. There were sacrifices after sacrifices. There were people following God’s laws and then not. We know, to say the least, that it is challenging to follow *all* the rules.

However, that was the old covenant. The priest had to always cover the sins of the people. But, what if a sin went unattended? Many curses and blessings are a part of the Old Testament. However, the promise of God is for a New Covenant where we don't have to go to someone else to beg for forgiveness on our behalf. Jesus Christ is the authentic Messiah! Unique in his commitment and compassion, Jesus will not give up, give in, back down or be discouraged. He will establish justice on earth. Because the Messiah will be a true champion for JUSTICE!

Activity #4: Old School vs. New School! Discuss the details of the New Covenant. How does it compare to the Old Covenant? And, which covenant would you prefer?

CLOSING PALM SUNDAY DEVOTION

Leader: What a strange paradox; the king is coming, the people rejoice, singing “Hosanna in the highest!” yet fail to understand that the king they welcome is the Servant King, the king who washes his disciples’ feet, the king who came not with an army but a weapon so powerful that not even death could resist the sacrificial love of God, laid out upon a cross.

Students: Lord God, as we sing our “Hosannas” today, may we remember also that which you were riding toward; suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel cross. Let us look forward to the joy of Easter day when you rose from death to reign forever.

Leader and Students: Help us, as we daily lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life which acknowledges Jesus as lord and king over our lives. Amen.