

The
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUMMER 2022
Teacher's Guide
QUARTERLY
JUN-JUL-AUG
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

A photograph of four diverse individuals (two men and two women) smiling and looking towards the camera. They are arranged in a circle, with their heads pointing towards the center. The background is a clear blue sky. The overall mood is positive and collaborative.

**PARTNERS
IN A
NEW CREATION**

THE COMBINED TEACHER'S GUIDE

SUMMER QUARTER 2022

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST

Christian Education Department
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BASIC SUPPLIES

Bible dictionary	writing paper
Bible pictures and maps	DVD recorder/player
CD players	milk crates
chart paper	paper – letter, drawing,
Christian music – books, sheets, recordings	pencils, pens, markers
Christian videos and DVDs	poster boards
crayons	robes, scarves
digital camera	old clothing
digital camcorder	scissors, glue, paste
drawing paper	video player

The Teacher's Guide
Liberating Faith Studies
Summer Quarter: June – August 2022
Prepared by Rev. Lionel Merritt

God Foretells Destruction

Lesson 1

June 5, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 47

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 47:10-15

Key Verse: Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have trafficked with you from your youth; they all wander about in their own paths; there is no one to save you. Isaiah 47:15

Key Terms

- **Enchantments** – The condition of being put under a spell; something that delights or charms; great delight.
- **Sorceries** – Magic formed with the supposed aid of evil spirits; witchcraft.
- **Stubble** – The lower ends of stalks of grain left in the ground after the grain is cut; any short, rough growth.
- **Sennacherib** (*sen-nack-er-ib*)

Sweyn (*svehn*)

Introduction

The Summer Quarter (June–August 2022) looks at creation in its broadest sense. As the teacher, the leader of discussion and engagement, you want to help participants see God's creative power beyond the Genesis creation story. Show the participants God's hand in framing past, present, and future events in the world. God did not

create the world and leave it to humans to decide its fate. After the Genesis creation, God remained in the world, working with humanity to bring about events, which ultimately led to God's supreme reign over heaven and earth.

Let the group headings guide you in focusing the lessons on the work of God the Father (Group 1, Old Testament), God the Son (Group 2, the Gospels), and God the Trinity in eternity (Group 3, Revelations).

For lesson 1, note that the same God who allowed the Babylonians to capture and enslave Israel now forecast relief and deliverance for Israel from the same Babylonians. This brings out a characteristic of God that some people find hard to accept. The God of love may, for our good, allow pain and suffering. Yet the Lord is there to provide relief when we learn our lesson and return to our creator.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand why God would destroy Babylon.
2. Grapple with the destructiveness of delighting in power and pleasure.
3. Repent from thoughts, actions, and feelings that separate believers from God.

Teaching Strategies

Here are some strategies and exercises that will help bring out key points of the lesson.

1. As preparation, get a copy of the video "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" from any video-sharing website. This video depicts people who think they will not get caught for impaired driving. Use this video to discuss why people think they can get away with evil, sinful behavior. Make the point that disobeying God has consequences.
2. As the Babylonians were punished for their arrogant pride, help the class look at humility and pride issues. Give the class some

sayings that relate to humility. Let the class identify the sayings. Using points from the text, discuss how God may humble someone who defies divine authority.

3. Here is a fun exercise. Have a participant read the six verses of the text aloud slowly. As they do so, have the rest of the class quickly stand up and sit down every time the word “you” or “your” is read. Afterward, ask, “Has anyone ever accused you of believing that everything was about you?” Point out what happened to Babylon because they believed everything was about them. Stress the portions of the text which described Babylonian arrogance and its consequences.
4. After reading the text, divide the class into small groups. Ensure each group has access to a concordance (hard copy or digital version). Have the groups look for references to Babylon in other parts of the scriptures. Ask the groups to comment on the things said about Babylon, and why do they think there are so many references to this one empire?
5. Lead the class in a discussion on how people display arrogance. Is excessive talk about oneself a sign of arrogance? What other signs of this sin come to mind?

God Foretells of Redemption

Lesson 2

June 12, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-17

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-13

Key Verse: Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages. Isaiah 49:8

Key Terms

- **Jacob** – Father of the 12 ancestors of the 12 Israelite tribes; son of Isaac and Rebekah; twin of Esau; name later changed to Israel.
- **Abhorred** – Shrank away from with horror; feel disgust for; hate very much.
- **Prostrate** – To lay down flat; cast down; to make very weak or helpless.
- **Zion** – Hill of Jerusalem; used to refer to the city of God or heavenly Jerusalem; Jewish people.
- **Syene** (sahy-ee-nee) – Modern Aswan in Egypt off the Nile River.

Introduction

This lesson brings to the fore an intriguing aspect of prophecy. A prophetic message normally cuts across time spans. The message, to be relevant, must have direct meaning to the people to whom it is given. It has an application that relates directly to the people who hear the message. But the message will also have an application that reaches far beyond its current era. The text is, therefore, a classic prophetic message. It spoke directly to the needs of the people at the time it was given. Yet it had a greater message of promise and hope for the nation of Israel and all believers. Using Israel's situation, God promised the ultimate liberation to all believers. Keep this dual meaning of the text in mind.

The matter of the *Servant Songs* or *Servant Poem* can be very engaging. Let it not intimidate you or the class. The introduction to the lesson covers the scope of what you need for this study.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand that God's mission for the people of Israel is to show all people the way to God.

2. Celebrate that all people who serve God are included in God's promises
3. Tell others about God's never-ending love and salvation for all people.

Teaching Strategies

Here are some exercises that will help you bring out key points of the lesson.

1. Start by challenging the participants' view of the word "servant." Let participants give their images of a servant and the opposite of those images. Guide the class to appreciate that in the eyes of God, the word "servant" has a cherished meaning. You can link the image of a servant to verses like 1 Peter 5:5, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
2. Divide the class into small groups and ask each group to identify the greatest leader of their country. They must give reasons for their selections. Then show why, in God's eyes, Jesus was the greatest of all leaders.
3. Give the class these headings: *Characteristics of the Servant*; *Mission of the Servant*; *Accomplishments of the Servant*. Next, read the lesson text aloud and ask class members to point out portions of the text that fit under these headings.
4. Again, divide the class into four groups, and give each group one of Isaiah's servant songs to read and summarize in a sentence or two (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-13; 50:4-9; and 52:12-53:13).
5. Play the classic contemporary Christian song "I Am a Servant" (written by Larry Norman, popularized by Nancy Honeytree) or a similar servant song from a CD or music-sharing site. Use this song as a closing prayer of commitment to serve God and others as Jesus did.

God's Restored People Shall Prosper

Lesson 3

June 19, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-26

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-23

Key Verse: Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame. Isaiah 49:23c

Key Terms

Barren – Not producing anything; not able to bear offspring, yield fruit or seeds; without interest.

Artaxerxes (ar-tuh-zerk-seez)

Belshazzar (bel-shazz-er)

Nabonidus (nab-uh-nye-dus)

Introduction

In this age of social media, we see and hear from many persons who claim prophetic anointing. This lesson underscores the key elements of a true prophecy. As noted in the lesson's introduction, true prophecy has identifiable detail and elements of divine intervention. Also, true prophecy is consistent with God's character and the scriptures. Use the lesson to bring the class face to face with the elements of God's prophetic messages and the truth and grace surrounding those messages.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify relationships in which individuals or congregations have experienced God's restoration.
2. Find comfort in the plans God has for the lives of believers.
3. Proclaim God's justice and mercy for God's people.

Teaching Strategies

These exercises will help the class focus on key aspects of the lesson.

1. Take the class down memory lane with children's stories which start with "Once upon a time" and end with "Happily ever after." Let the class identify favorite fairy tales that fall into this category. Then get them to discuss why real-life stories do not always follow this happy pattern. How should this impact our attitude to the events of life?
2. Ask the class about movies where the world is seen as a place of great suffering and injustice. Examples are *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Minority Report*, and *Metropolis*. Use these movies to discuss why we fear that the world will worsen. Contrast this with what the Bible tells us is the only way the world will become better.
3. Make copies of the lesson text for class members. Have participants underline every word that describes a relationship in the text (bride, inhabitants, children, etc.). How will each of these relationships reach their full potential in the world brought about by God's servant?
4. Have a volunteer read the lesson text aloud. Point out that the reason for all the events described happening is so that people "will know that I am the Lord" (v. 23). Help participants use an online concordance to look up other uses of that phrase in the Old Testament, then discuss what events have occurred to let us know that God is the Lord of all.

Senior Lessons

Summer Quarter: June – August 2022

Prepared by Dr. Dennis Dickerson, Jr.

God Foretells Destruction

Lesson 1

June 5, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 47

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 47:10-15

Key Verse: You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, “No one sees me.” Isaiah 47:10a

Words to Know

- **Enchantments** – the condition of being put under a spell; something that delights or charms; great delight
- **Sorceries** – magic formed with the supposed aid of evil spirits; witchcraft
- **Stubble** – the lower ends of stalks of grain left in the ground after the grain is cut; any short, rough growth

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Discern present-day practices and false gods that are not pleasing to God and obstruct people's relationship with God.
2. Regret the separation from God that results from sin.
3. Turn away from evil practices and worship God alone.

Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss the geography of Babylon, Jerusalem, the Persian Empire, etc.
2. Bring in newspapers or review different news outlets on smartphones. Look for stories of people who became arrogant and

allowed corruption to control them. Discuss what these stories have in common with one another. Ask what qualities lead some people to allow this to happen while others resist.

3. Discuss the qualities and characteristics of a person who is able to resist arrogance and temptations that lead to sin and corruption.
4. Contrast “wicked Babylon” to righteous Israel or godly Zion. Use parallel language and imagery for the person of virtue who resists arrogance and corruption. Print copies of the Isaiah text and your newly constructed description for participants to take with them and display where they will see them.

Resources:

Introduction video for the book of Isaiah: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TzdEPuqgQg

Video on the Babylonian conquest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrmTw0WroQ8>

God Foretells Redemption

Lesson 2

June 12, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-17

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-13

Key Verse: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6c

Words to Know

- **Jacob** – father of the 12 ancestors of the 12 Israelite tribes; son of Isaac and Rebekah; twin of Esau; name later changed to Israel
- **Abhorred** – shrunk away from with horror; felt disgust for; hate very much

- **Prostrate** – to lay down flat; cast down; to make very weak or helpless
- **Zion** – hill of Jerusalem; used to refer to the city of God or heavenly Jerusalem; Jewish people
- **Syene** – (sahy-ee-nee) Modern Aswan in Egypt off the Nile River

Lesson Goals: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explore the false security they find in people and things.
2. Appreciate that all people who serve God are included in God's promises.
3. Create opportunities to praise God for the plan of redemption.

Teaching Strategies

1. Invite youth to make a list of things they couldn't live without on paper you've provided. Leave the directions intentionally vague. Once participants have completed their lists, invite them to use highlighters of different colors to indicate which things they literally couldn't live without, which things they wouldn't want to live without, and which things they really could live without if they had to. Discuss why we feel this way about things we own or have.
2. Provide an LED candle (inexpensive at dollar stores) for each participant. Consider the metaphor in verse 6: "I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Invite participants to suggest ways they could live this metaphor to be a light, writing responses on the board or newsprint. Suggest that participants take the candles with them as a reminder to be light with their lives.
3. Give participants paint and paper and/or colored pencils and paper. Invite them to choose one of the colorful imagery from this text and draw a picture that uses the imagery and also makes evident a meaning of the text. For example, verse 2 has imagery of a mouth

like a sharp sword, or verse 9 has imagery of prisoners being told to come out or those in darkness invited to show themselves. Discuss the art, and display it for the rest of the congregation to appreciate.

Resource:

Video of the history of Israel and Judah: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZybFYikBMLg>

God's Restored People Shall Prosper

Lesson 3

June 19, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-26

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-23

Key Verse: Thus says the Lord God: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples, and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. Isaiah 49:22

Word to Know

- **Barren** – not producing anything; not able to bear offspring, yield fruit or seeds; without interest

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify personal relationships in which people experienced God's restoration.
2. Desire to live in the promises of God.
3. Proclaim God's justice and mercy for God's people.

Teaching Strategies

1. This text puts the struggles of the people of Zion in context in time and among its neighbors. Invite participants to share stories of the ways in which they have been able to put struggles in a larger

context that helps them make sense. Remind participants that only the person who has suffered can give meaning to their suffering and urge them not to offer trite answers or impose meaning on others. Summarize the stories and meaning in a sentence each (an example might be something like "I once was lost but now I'm found") using different styles of writing to create a collage.

2. Using pastels or other art supplies, engage participants in creating scenes from the text as they imagine them. The poetic imagery and visual nature of the text lends itself to imagining the scenes. Share the art with the rest of the congregation.
3. Provide sidewalk chalk and/or spray chalk and spend some time walking through the neighborhood around the church writing or spraying words of hope (peace, joy, grace, hope, love, etc.) on the public sidewalks as a way of encouraging neighbors in the midst of a dystopian time that God's promises are sure and will be fulfilled in the fullness of time.

Resource:

Video on the Babylonian exile: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWpa0gcPyo>

Intermediate Lessons

Summer Quarter: June 2022 – August 2022

Prepared by Faith M. Waters

God Foretells Destruction

Lesson 1

June 5, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 47

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 47:10-15

Key Verse: You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, “No one sees me.” Isaiah 47:10a

Vocabulary

- **Wickedness** – The quality of being evil or morally wrong.
- **Astray** – To move away from the correct path or direction.
- **Charm** – To use magic power to change a situation.
- **Enchantments** – The state of being under a spell.
- **Sorceries** – The art, practice, spells of a person who is supposed to exercise supernatural powers through the aid of evil spirits.
- **Stubble** – The short, stiff stalks of grain or hay remaining on a field after the harvest.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Learn why God destroyed Babylon.
2. Reflect on how sin separates us from God.
3. Repent of sin and worship God alone.

Teaching Strategies

1. Be mindful that Isaiah 1:1–39:8 is a word of judgement for sin. Isaiah 40:1–66:24 are words of forgiveness, comfort, and hope. The second half of Isaiah contains a message of hope in the coming of the Messiah. He describes the Messiah as suffering servant and a sovereign Lord.
2. After the opening prayer, let the class play a game. Bring a game, such as Jenga (buy online at Amazon or go to a local store), to class. Allow the class to play the game and time how long it takes before the blocks collapse. Say to class, “When we sin, a part of us is removed and makes us unstable. Eventually, as we continually sin it leads to our collapse and destruction.” As an alternative, if you are conducting classes via Zoom, Google “Online Zoom Games” to find a game. Or ask the class for recommendations in advance.
3. Babylon’s doom symbolizes the destruction of the Satanic world system at the advent of Israel’s king and kingdom.
4. Babylon used astrologers, stargazers, sorcerers, and magicians more than any other nation. But they are useless idols. Read Daniel 2:2,10 as an example of King Nebuchadnezzar’s reliance on astrologers, magicians, sorcerers, etc.
5. God chose Cyrus to overthrow Babylon. His victory led to the return of some of the Israelites to Zion (Jerusalem) to start the rebuilding process.
6. The supernatural work of God in the world confirms God’s greatness and the truth of Isaiah’s prophecies that there are consequences for every action.
7. God gave Moses and the Israelites the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai. The first commandment in Exodus 20:1-5 warns the people to not have any other gods. But the Israelites violated this

commandment and did not repent. God gave them warnings but they ignored him.

8. This text is a poem likely constructed by Isaiah (chapters 40–66) as a break in God's assurance. Babylon is personified as a royal daughter, fallen from her lofty status and forced to serve as a slave girl. Although Babylon was powerful at the time, its wickedness meant that it would surely fall.

Resource: Jenga puzzle game

God Foretells of Redemption

Lesson 2

June 12, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-17

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-13

Key Verse: "I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6c

Vocabulary

- **Vanity** – Emptiness, falseness.
- **Salvation** – Deliverance from sin through the sacrifice and suffering of the Messiah.
- **Abhorred** – To regard with disgust and hatred.
- **Prostrate** – To lay stretched out on the ground with one's face downward.
- **Covenant** – A contract or agreement between two parties.
- **Compassion** – A feeling of pity or sorrow for another's suffering. It is one of God's characteristics, as well as a characteristic of Christians.

- **Syene** – Pronounced: si-e'-ni.

Lesson Goals: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Study the reasons we put our trust in people and things rather than God.
2. Be grateful that all people who serve God are included in God's promises.
3. Praise God and share with others God's plan for redemption through the Messiah.

Teaching Strategies

1. In the **Life Application** section, after the class makes their lists of things they cannot live without, ask the following questions: a) What things can you literally not live without? b) What are the things you would not want to live without? c) What things can you really live without if you had to? As they answer each question, tell them to use different colored highlighter markers to highlight each response. Discuss why we have placed such value and feelings on things we own or have.
2. The servant is defined both in relation to the restoration of Israel and as a light to the nations. The servant's restoration demonstrated the sovereignty of the Lord in the world.
3. The covenant God made with Israel is fulfilled when they are released from captivity to return through the wilderness to their homeland in a second exodus. It is symbolically like the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and God's provision, protection, and guidance as they journeyed in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3-5).
4. God used King Cyrus of Persia as an instrument in his dealing with Israel being released from captivity and restored.
5. The nation of Israel was to be a kingdom of priests, but the Messiah

would be the high priest who atoned for the sins of the world (Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 53:4-12).

6. Verse 13 is the conclusion that portrays the celebration of all creation at the restoration of Israel (Isaiah 44:23; 45:8).
7. Syene is in the Aswan region of southern Egypt.
8. Be sensitive towards those who have parents or guardians that work in the service industry. It may make them feel embarrassed to talk about it, in fear of their peers who may bully them.

Resources: Battery operated candles or flashlights; colored highlighter markers

God's Restored People Shall Prosper

Lesson 3

June 19, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-26

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-23

Key Verse: Thus says the Lord God: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. Isaiah 49:22

Vocabulary

- **Desolate** – A place that is deserted and has no people or animals.
- **Inhabitant** – A person or animal that lives in or occupies a place.
- **Bereavement** – The period of grief and mourning after a death or other loss.
- **Barren** – The inability to produce offspring.
- **Exiled** – A person or group that has been expelled and barred from one's native country for punitive or political reasons.

- **Shame** – A painful emotion caused by the consciousness of guilt.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify personal relationships that God has restored.
2. Appreciate that God's plans and purposes can be fulfilled in our lives when we are faithful.
3. Share with others God's promises of justice and mercy available for his people.

Teaching Strategies

1. In the **Life Application** section, when discussing fairytales, some youth may not have heard or remember the stories. In preparation for class, research two or three to share with class through hardcopies or via YouTube.
2. Beautiful clothes and jewels represent strength and joy (Isaiah 49:18).
3. During the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, the Israelites were forced to eat other humans (cannibalism) (Lamentations 4:10). God would punish Israel's oppressors by making them resort to cannibalism (Isaiah 49:26).
4. The raised hand of God reverses the hand of judgment extended against Israel (Isaiah 9:7–10:4). God's raised hand also recalls the banner that signals restoration (Isaiah 11:1–16).
5. This is a continuation of the second servant song of Isaiah, celebrating the redeemer of Israel. The imagery of the redeemer as the bridegroom and the redeemed as bride is seen in its fulfillment in Christ (Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:6-8).
6. June 19th is Juneteenth. Research and share with class the history of the celebration.

Appendix A

Give each youth a piece of construction paper. Tell them to trace one hand. On top of the hand write, "God has not forgotten me. I, (name), am inscribed on the palm of God's hand" (Isaiah 49:16). Then have each youth write their name in the center of the palm which represents God's palm. Tell them to hang it somewhere they can see it every day.

Resources: Pens, construction paper, colored pencils

Junior Lessons

Summer Quarter: June – August 2022

Prepared by Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn

God Sees Everything

Lesson 1

June 5, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 47

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 47:10-15

Key Verse: You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, “No one sees me.” Your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray. Isaiah 47:10a

Word Power!!!

- **Babylon** – The nation that Isaiah said God would use to discipline Judah for worshipping other gods and unjust practices.
- **“I am, and there is no one besides me”** – The phrase God uses to describe God’s uniqueness.
- **Consultations** – Different “technologies” the Babylonians depended on to help direct their lives (e.g., sorcery, fortune-telling, and astrology).

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Discover why believing we aren’t accountable to anyone else backfires.
2. Explore how an over-dependence on human technology can lead us to trust incorruptible things.
3. Compare how God reveals something in society’s needs and how our senses reveal that something needs to be addressed.

Teaching Strategies

1. Have students show you how their senses help them know when something needs addressing, and then have them compare that to the warning God's giving Babylon and Judah in the lesson
2. Have students create a "Good and Bad Uses of Technology" board.

Resources: For **Activity #1:** Items that have something wrong can be detected using a particular sense (e.g., use a lamp or candle with a dying bulb/wick that's running low for sight or an alarm for hearing). For **Activity #2:** Posterboard, images of people using technology in good ways (e.g., iPads/laptops for schoolwork, educational TV programs, Zoom/Facebook for worship, microphone to make it easier to hear) and images of people using technology in harmful ways (e.g., playing a game on school device instead of doing schoolwork, watching non-kid friendly things on TV and social media, drawing images on-screen during Zoom worship, using the microphone to talk over others during virtual school or worship) for "Good and Bad Uses of Technology" Board.

God Will Make Things Better

Lesson 2

June 12, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-17

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-11

Key Verse: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you. Isaiah 49:8

Word Power!!!

- **Shadow of His Hand** – Code words for "being safe and protected."
- **Nations** – Groups of people who share a common history and/or belief system.

- **Prostrate** – Bowing low to the ground to honor someone.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Discover why God chooses servants.
2. Practice ways that the church can be a light to the nations.
3. Identify how God helps people continue to partner with God even when they're discouraged.

Teaching Strategies

1. Play "This Little Light of Mine" in the background while students make a list of godly messages they can share with others.
2. Show the class types of lights and identify how they're used. Then encourage students to compare the way each light is used to a way that Christians are lights to the nations.

Resources: Video or audio recording of "This Little Light of Mine" and a device to play it. For **Activity #1:** Pictures, videos, or actual examples of at least the following types of lights: lighthouse, ring LED light, birthday candle, flashlight, car headlights. **Activity #2** answers: 1. SHADOW OF HIS HAND, 2. REWARD IS WITH GOD, 3. HID ME IN HIS QUIVER, 4. NAMED ME, 5. CALLED ME, 6. FORMED ME, 7. KEEPS ME, 8. HELPS ME LEAD.

God Gives a Better Life

Lesson 3

June 19, 2022

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-26

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 49:18-23

Key Verse: Thus says the Lord God: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples. Isaiah 49:22a

Word Power!!!

- **Lift Up Your Eyes** – Look deeper.
- **Desolate Places** – Places left in ruins when the Israelites had to relocate to Babylon.
- **Time of Your Bereavement** – Time spent being disciplined by God.
- **Put to Shame** – Disappointed.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Show appreciation for all the things God does to give us a better life.
2. Understand the challenges of adjusting to the better life we're being offered.
3. Learn how to look deeper and recognize we're not being left out when God provides the better life to others.

Teaching Strategies

1. Encourage students to share how good changes can be just as difficult to adjust to as negative changes.
2. Show the *Young Sheldon* season 5, "Missy Gets Her OWN Room" YouTube video clip before the class reads the **Using God's Word!!!** section.

Resources: For the opening feeling/help activity: Feeling Stickers (words or images); emoji pictures to cut out, scissors and glue; crayons, color pencils, and markers. The **Using God's Word!!!** section: Mobile Device and YouTube, show the clip from the *Young Sheldon* episode referenced in the section.