

Middle School

Teacher's Plans



April 5, 2020

Youth Topic:

Are You the Right One to Lead?

Unit II. God Promises a Just Kingdom

Lesson

6

Background Scripture: Isaiah 42

Print Passage: Isaiah 42:1-9

General Lesson:

God's Just Servant



[God said,] "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." (Isaiah 42:1)

PREPARING TO TEACH

- **Resources Needed:** Bibles, student books, paper, pens or pencils, index cards, (**optional:** Youth Leadership Resource Kit [materials for this lesson])
- Prior to class, find a couple of examples of young entrepreneurs who have made valuable contributions to society. Use this information in the "Walk Out" section.

LESSON OVERVIEW

People seek a champion of justice. Who can and will defend and uphold the cause of justice? In Matthew 21, Jesus upholds God's justice in the Temple, fulfilling Isaiah 42's vision of the Messiah.

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

STATUS UPDATE (check-in)

Before introducing your lesson, take some time to get a quick status update from your students; check in with them to see how their week has been.

Status Update: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? "Who is someone you know that demonstrates God's love by serving others?"

It's Go Time! (illustration)

Get your students moving and thinking by using the following illustration, a game, or an activity that relates to this week's lesson.

Divide the class into two groups. Ask one group to describe activities they could do to serve people in the community. Ask the second group to discuss reasons

why people hesitate or do not want to serve people in the community. An important point to emphasize is that God expects believers to love and serve others.

WAKE UP! (10 minutes)

Have the students read this week's contemporary story and connect it this week's lesson.

After the story is read, say, "Have you ever witnessed an act of injustice but were afraid to report or confront it because you thought you were too young?" Allow the students to share their experiences. Allow the class to share thoughts about Milah's courage to stand up for hungry students at her school. Connect the story with the Scripture passage by emphasizing the importance of being a willing servant.

WORD UP (10 minutes)

Inspect the passage for the day. You will want to make sure that you have Bibles or copies of the passage for those who do not have a Bible with them.

Back Up! (background)

Here is some background for today's text that should be

used throughout teaching this lesson—in order to set the stage for the passage.

Today is Palm Sunday. In Matthew 21, Jesus upholds God's justice in the Temple, fulfilling Isaiah 42's vision of the Messiah, which is featured in today's lesson. The Scripture passage is sometimes referred to as the "Servant Song." Some Bible scholars debate exactly which servant is being addressed in the Scripture verses. Both Israel and the Messiah are called "servant." The nation of Israel was given an assignment or mission to serve God, to be good stewards and teachers of His Word, and to be light to all nations, including Gentile nations. God recognized Israel as His "Chosen People." Because of sin and continual rebellion against the things of God, Israel failed to honor God or accomplish the mission of serving God in the manner God intended. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Messiah to fulfill the mission that Israel was unable to do. Therefore, it is more likely that the servant being referred to in the Scripture passage is the Messiah—Jesus Christ.

The chapter records the Servant's character, which is described to reveal Jesus' divine nature. The Servant demonstrates the attributes of gentleness, encouragement, justice, and truth. Isaiah prophesied how God would send a Servant who would bring justice to the earth and restore the people's relationship with God. Unlike usual methods of war and such that were used to bring justice to the nations, the Messiah would promote justice through gentleness, and faithfulness instead of violence. The Messiah would also differ from ancient kings and rulers because He will not be discouraged or grow weary as justice prevails.

Jesus' special mission on earth would be to demonstrate righteousness and lay the foundation and be the light for all nations. No longer would salvation only be for Jewish nations.

Through the Messiah, all nations would have equal opportunity to have a relationship with God. God's new covenant that would be established through the Messiah would lead the way for justice. Old things will pass away and become new when justice prevails.

It's Text Time! (Scripture)

Here is the New International Version of today's Scripture. However, you may consider studying another one or two translations in preparation for leading.

(Isaiah 42:1-9)

1 "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."

WORK OUT (10 minutes)

Examine the intersections of the passage. What is the passage about? How was it heard at the time? How does it apply now?

After the text in this section of the student book is read, say, "The passage this week speaks to God's love and devotion of His people. God could have given up on His people and allowed Israel to continue rebelling and influencing other nations to follow their example. But because of God's love, He would not allow the broken relationship with His people to be final. God sent a Messiah—Jesus Christ—to save the world. Believers should rejoice in the fact that God did not condemn the world because of Israel's disobedience. Jesus is the light of the world and all

believers who accept Him as Lord and Savior inherit the right and the responsibility to be witnesses of His light (truth)."

Inside Out (interpretation)

Work on the passage from the inside out. Allow time for the students to raise their own questions about the Scripture.

After the students ask and answer their own questions about the text, ask them to think about how God has everything in control, even when we do not understand His plan. Explain how the world would be lost if Israel had been given the sole responsibility of revealing God's character to the world. God did not leave the fate of humanity at risk. Jesus Christ is the answer for human sin and the world's only hope for a right relationship with God.

There's an App for That! (application)

Show how this Scripture applies to present day.

After the text in this section of the student book is read, share this: "Some people think that effective servants can only be adults or people who have been walking with the Lord for a long time—but that is not true. God can use whomever He chooses to carry out missions that bless others. Never question your ability to impact the world in a special way." Encourage the students to welcome opportunities that allow them to serve others.

WALK OUT (10 minutes)

Help the students think about how this Scripture connects to them personally.

After the text in this section of the student book has been read, have the students reflect on their activities of service. Have them think about how they can serve others in different settings such as home, church, school, and the community. Have a couple of stories to share about young entrepreneurs who have made a difference in society. Help the students understand that believers should want to serve others, because by doing so, we reflect God's love to the world.

Stepping Out! (challenge)

Give the students this challenge for the week. Emphasize that they can do it!

Challenge the students to think about the people in their lives who make a living serving others. Invite them to write three thank-you notes to individuals who serve others on a daily basis. To stimulate their thinking, engage the students in a discussion to talk about various roles in which people serve others. Encourage the students to invite their friends to participate in the challenge as well.

It's Game Time! (Answer Key)

E	C	I	T	S	U	J	S	Z	N	S	R
F	S	K	B	L	P	E	O	E	X	F	S
J	M	N	V	Z	R	F	S	C	R	D	M
U	I	L	O	V	E	O	B	V	I	E	M
M	S	L	A	I	H	E	Q	V	K	L	J
X	Q	N	I	C	T	Y	O	T	A	I	U
B	T	V	N	L	Z	A	T	I	W	G	K
G	P	P	L	V	E	A	N	R	U	H	X
W	N	U	N	H	W	M	T	I	Y	T	Y
J	C	J	U	R	V	I	S	P	T	S	C
G	W	Q	V	F	Y	D	S	S	J	D	V
B	G	U	H	Y	C	E	O	A	I	I	R

MEDIA MISSION (after you meet!)

Finally, leave your students with a media mission. Ask them to find their own example of a Web site, video, or song that relates to this lesson.

Ask the students if they have ever served on a community project for individuals who were in need of the basic necessities of life, such as food, water, safety, and shelter. Invite the students to conduct an Internet search to locate local, state, national, and global organizations where they can volunteer. Encourage the students to learn more about the needs of people in their community and throughout the world. Remind the students that they add great value in the work of building God's kingdom.

High School

Teacher's Plans



April 5, 2020

Youth Topic:

Unit II. God Promises
a Just Kingdom

Are You the Right One to Lead?

General Lesson:
God's Just Servant

Lesson 6

Background Scripture: Isaiah 42
Print Passage: Isaiah 42:1-9



[God said,] "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." (*Isaiah 42:1*)

PREPARING TO TEACH

- **Resources Needed:** Bibles, student books, paper, pens or pencils, a timer, (**optional:** Youth Leadership Resource Kit [materials for this lesson])
- Prior to class, choose one of the words defined in the Bible lesson as today's word of the day.

LESSON OVERVIEW

People seek a champion of justice. Who can and will defend and uphold the cause of justice? In Matthew 21, Jesus upholds God's justice in the Temple, fulfilling Isaiah 42's vision of the Messiah.

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

STATUS UPDATE (check-in)

Before introducing your lesson, take some time to get a quick status update from your students; check in with them to see how their week has been.

Status Update: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? "What does it mean to be a champion for justice?"

It's Go Time! (illustration)

Get your students moving and thinking by using the following illustration, a game, or an activity that relates to this week's lesson.

The Value of a Dollar: Separate the class into teams of one to three students. Provide each team with pens and paper. Teams should brainstorm about the best thing they could buy someone with one dollar. After

five minutes, have each group discuss their results. Encourage ideas that would benefit others. Help the students to recognize the satisfaction and value that comes from serving others.

REFLECT (10 minutes)

Have the students read this week's contemporary story and relate it back to the main points of this week's lesson.

Have the students read the contemporary story and then invite them to read and discuss the question posed at the end. Then say, "Many people are willing to support ideas that benefit themselves, but 'Mission: 5,4,3,2,1' was Sam's idea for reaching out to help others—the senior citizens in his church. Jesus had a servant's heart and when we reach out to others, we also show we have a servant's heart."

INSPECT (10 minutes)

Inspect the passage for the day. You will want to make sure that you have Bibles or copies of the passage for those who do not have a Bible with them.

Back Up! (background)

Here is some background for today's text that should be used throughout teaching this lesson—in order to set the stage for the passage.

Isaiah 42:1-9 is considered as one of four “servant songs” found in the book of Isaiah. Several times through his prophetic message to Israel, Isaiah refers to the people as God’s servant. Because of sin and rebellion, the nation failed to accomplish its original mission of bringing the world to a saving knowledge of God. Instead, Jesus accepted the assignment to complete God’s mission on earth.

Several passages in Isaiah have been designated as “servant songs” because they describe the ministry, suffering and praise of the Servant of the Lord, who Jesus, is the Messiah. The servant songs are located at 49:1-13, 50:4-11 and 52:13-53:12. In today’s lesson text, Isaiah introduced the servant of the song—the Messiah, whom God has chosen and in whom God delights. Verses 1-9 are fulfilled in Matthew 12:18-21 and in Philippians 2:7.

Isaiah 42 tells us not only about God, but also about the servant’s relationship to God, what the Servant of the Lord would be like, and what He would be assigned to do. The “former things” represent the things that were predicted and fulfilled, and the “new things” would mean Christ’s coming and redemption of humans.

God has assigned Jesus as a mediator, or messenger, between God and humans. In verse 6, Isaiah describes Jesus’ ministry as the fulfillment of God’s covenant to the Jews and a light of the Gentiles. God’s new covenant leads the way for justice. The Messiah’s mission was described in Isaiah 61:1 and fulfilled in Luke 4:18.

Through Jesus, every believer has the privilege of becoming one of God’s servants, fulfilling God’s mission, being the light of the world, and reflecting God’s righteousness. As servants, we must reflect the true character of a servant—gentleness, encouragement, justice, and truth.

It’s Text Time! (Scripture)

Here is the New International Version of today’s Scripture. However, you may consider studying another one or two translations in preparation for leading.

(Isaiah 42:1-9)

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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.”

INTERSECT (10 minutes)

Examine the intersections of the passage. What is the passage about? How was it heard at the time? How does it apply now?

After the text in this section of the student book has been read, say, “Jesus came as a servant with a mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Matthew 20:28 reads, ‘The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve . . .’ Jesus is the servant of God; Jesus was sent to serve God through serving others’ spiritual and physical needs. Jesus proved His commitment to serving God by going to the Cross to pay the price for human sin and make a way for people to be reconnected to God. As Jesus came to serve His Father (see Philippians 2:1-8), we too, as God’s servants, are called to serve God and the needs of others. Developing a servant’s heart is the mission of every child of God.”

Inside Out (interpretation)

Work on the passage from the inside out. Allow time for the students to raise their own questions about the Scripture.

Ask the students to share words that come to mind when they think of a servant. Say, “People don’t usually think highly of servants—but God does. God made a covenant with the people of Israel—they were to be His servants, showing His righteousness to the world. Israel disobeyed God repeatedly, so God promised to send His Son, the Messiah, to accomplish His purpose on earth. Many expected the Messiah to come as a king—to deliver Israel from her oppressors—but Jesus, the Messiah, “did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45). Ask the students to discuss what it means to be God’s servant.

There’s an App for That! (application)

Show how this Scripture applies to present day.

Have the students read the text in this section of the student book (which is similar to this): “Many young people take an inactive role at church because they don’t think anyone expects much from them. But Sam came up with a service project and showed that teens can be excellent examples of Christian service and leadership. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul encouraged Timothy with these words: ‘Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.’” Ask the class to think of ways that the youth at your church can start serving others.

CONNECT (10 minutes)

Help the students think about how this Scripture connects to them personally.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the text in this section of the student book (which is similar to this): “God sent Jesus to bless the world in the role of a servant. We cannot repay Him for what He has done for us, but we can show our gratitude by joining the great work of serving and blessing others, even in small ways.” Take a moment for silent or spoken prayer for students to pray about how their lives can make a difference to others.

Stepping Out! (challenge)

Give the students this challenge for the week. Emphasize that they can do it!

Ask the class to name the people who have served God on their behalf, making sure their needs were met. Sometimes, it is easy to take for granted the people who make the biggest sacrifices for us. This week, encourage the students to send a heartfelt text message or note to the person(s) in their lives who have done the most for them.

MEDIA MISSION (after you meet!)

Finally, leave your students with a media mission. Ask them to find their own example of a Web site, video, or song that relates to this lesson.

The students are asked to watch the video entitled “Jesus vs. Justice” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMjT3RsJLBY>. They are asked whether they agree that Jesus was a social activist, and to consider the fact that as God’s servants, we have a duty to respond to the world’s real problems. Encourage them to share their thoughts in a social-media post.

NOTES