

Middle School

Teacher's Plans



April 26, 2020

Youth Topic:

Unit II. God Promises
a Just Kingdom

He's Given Me a New Name!

General Lesson:
**The Lord
Loves Justice**

Lesson 9

Background Scripture: Isaiah 61:8–62:12

Print Passage: Isaiah 61:8-11; 62:2-4a



The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. (*Isaiah 62:2*)

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 lists of biblical names and the associated meanings of the names. You will use the lists for the “It’s Go Time!” activity.

LESSON OVERVIEW

When people feel helpless and angry, they seek help from others. What hope is there that the conditions of the powerless will be addressed? Solomon’s wise decision confirms that God loves justice, and Isaiah affirms that the righteous will be vindicated.

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? “Do you know what the word *covenant* means? Explain.”

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.

Have the class to examine the lists of biblical names and to choose and share with the class one name (and

the name’s meaning) that reflects how they would want to be known to the world if they could change their name. Emphasize the point that being known as a “child of God” is the best name they could ever have.

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, ask the students if they have ever struggled with a particular subject in school. Allow time for them to discuss their personal experiences. Say, “Many problems in life can be overcome through hard work and determination. For challenges that seem a bit more difficult to accomplish, it is necessary to trust God for help and keep a positive attitude.” Invite the students to discuss the question posed at the end of the story.

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.

In today's lesson, the prophet Isaiah prays for the salvation of God's people in Israel. For years, the hearts of God's people had wandered into disobedience and rebellion against Him. Although God planned to punish them for their sins, He never stopped loving them.

God is concerned about those who suffer because of injustice. But He still has compassion for those who suffer for their own mistakes. In fact, God declared that although Israel would bear the consequences of their sin, God would not abandon them completely. In time, God planned to show the nation favor and restore them. Cities and places that had been burned and destroyed would be rebuilt. Isaiah also spoke of how the people would have servants to help them accomplish daily tasks. Instead of shame and dishonor, God planned to give Israel a double portion of prosperity and joy.

God's vision to Isaiah was so exciting that Isaiah was determined to keep praying for Israel. The prophet had a passion for God's people and a desire to see God complete the work of salvation in them. Therefore, he prayed fervently that Israel would be saved. Christians today should imitate Isaiah's persistence and passion for the will of God.

Isaiah knew that Israel had been disobedient down through the generations, but he was thankful that, at some point in the future, God would give His people another chance for greatness. In 62:12, Isaiah highlighted that God was going to change Israel's name to acknowledge restoration. Israel would be called the Holy People and the People Redeemed by the Lord. And Jerusalem would be known as the Desirable Place and the City No Longer Forsaken. God wanted the people of Israel to know they were His people and would never be anything other than the blessed children of God.

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 61:8-11; 62:2-4a)

8 "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. **9** Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed." **10** I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. **11** For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

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2 The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. **3** You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. **4** No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate.

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 to the students, "Isaiah was excited about God's message for Israel. He was fully aware that Israel had been oppressed yet bound to harsh consequences because of their willing disobedience. Isaiah still rejoiced because God revealed that He would someday restore Israel and make the nation great again. God promised to give Israel a new name that would symbolize the restoration. Everyone will face obstacles in life that may seem difficult to overcome. When faced with life challenges, believers can trust that God sees and understand their situations. More than anything, God wants His people to live in right and loving relationship with Him and others. No matter what happens, we can trust God's love and His promises to us.

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 text in this section of the student book has been read, ask the students to think about how they respond to various challenges. Help them understand that some challenges in life may take a long time to overcome, whereas other challenges may be resolved quickly. Encourage the students to trust God’s timing, because He can work every situation for the good of those who trust Him. Ask the students to discuss how they can increase their faith while waiting on God to move.

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, explain how Isaiah’s response to God’s message was to pray and thank God for His unmerited favor and willingness to restore Israel. Stress the point that believers should take the time thank God for being active in their lives. Help the students understand that God does something special every day, just by providing His love and grace. Remind them that being able to pray and talk to God is a privilege.

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 is read, discuss Antoinette’s excitement about her academic progress. Once known as a poor reader, now Antoinette was one of the best readers in her class. Antoinette’s confidence and hope were restored. Have the students

discuss the questions posed in this section of their students books. Remind the students that God’s desire is to prosper them in everything they do. Emphasize the point that God wants His people to know they are blessed, and they should never give up hope.

Stepping Out! (challenge)

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

Challenge the students to think about reasons why we fall short of doing what God expects us to do. For each reason, invite them to write a positive action they can do in the future to avoid giving in to disobedience. Encourage the students to pray and ask God to help them obey in every tempting situation. Encourage them to trust that God will empower them to live righteously.

It’s Game Time! (Answer Key)

Allow time for the students to complete today’s activity. Stand ready to assist any students who may need help with word spellings or word ideas to complete the sentences.

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.

Have the students complete this week’s “Media Mission.” The purpose of the mission is to have students conduct an Internet search using the phrase “Christian poems about hope.” Direct the students to read several of the poems they find. Have them to select one poem to use as inspiration to compose their own poem about hope. Talk with the class about why believers should always encourage themselves when going through life’s trials.

NOTES

High School

Teacher's Plans



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The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. (*Isaiah 62:2*)

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, rearrange the room to resemble a courtroom.
- Prior to class, select a word of the day.

LESSON OVERVIEW

When people feel helpless and angry, they seek help from others. What hope is there that the conditions of the powerless will be addressed? Solomon's wise decision confirms that God loves justice, and Isaiah affirms that the righteous will be vindicated.

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? "Share the last time someone brought you good news. How did it make you feel?"

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.

Mock Trial: Divide the class into two teams, allowing three to five minutes to prepare for a debate as follows: **Team One**—Yes, God should have forgiven the Israelites for their sin and prevented the Assyrians from punishing them. **Team Two**—No, Israel deserved God's hardest punishment for their sin and rebellion; they did not deserve any more mercy. Each team should support their position with two or three reasons and select representatives to give a one-minute summary of each supporting point.

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 read and discuss the question posed at the end of the story. Remind them that young people should always be careful and prayerful when approaching strangers. It was Nathan's compassion for a stranger that resulted in a tremendous blessing. Explain to the class that today's lesson will showcase God's love at its finest. God will rest His case, promising salvation and a new name.

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 (whose name means “Yahweh saves”) prophesied in the eighth century BC during some of the most unstable and chaotic periods in Israel’s history. Isaiah was an outspoken mouthpiece for God who did not hold his tongue. He refused to compromise his message and was never afraid of what the people might say. The book of Isaiah begins as the Northern Kingdom is under threat of invasion by Assyria. Isaiah 61 begins with a prophecy that outlines an agenda of justice and social ministry to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners, and all those who mourn. This commitment to oppressed and hurting people was the specific focus of Jesus’ ministry on earth. It was from this section of Isaiah that Jesus read when He stood in the synagogue at the beginning of His ministry (in Luke 4:16-21) to announce, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” and revealed that He was the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy.

Isaiah continues to describe God’s commitment to justice. It is one thing when people suffer the consequences of their own poor choices and bad behavior—they get what they deserve. But God is personally committed to defending and blessing innocent people who suffer because of others’ robbery and wrongdoing (verse 8).

God loves justice and hates evil and oppression in any form. Isaiah 61 is a glimpse of the coming day when God will conquer injustice with the reign of His righteousness. Isaiah prophesies that God will cause the righteous to rejoice in their salvation (expressed as being clothed with the “garments of salvation” and the “robe of righteousness”). Instead of oppression, righteousness will triumph as a seed sprouting up in a garden, springing forth before the nations.

Chapter 61 closes with praise for God’s promises to restore the people. Restored, forgiven people have

a duty to share God’s graciousness, forgiveness, and mercy of God with the world! Many young people have been hurt or disappointed by others’ broken promises. Wrap up the Bible exposition, reminding youth that they can believe and trust in the promises of God!

It’s Text Time! (Scripture)

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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 is read, say, “‘For I, the LORD, love justice . . .’ Many believe that God’s love and justice are opposites, but the truth is that God’s love and justice work together. The justice of God is one of His attributes that can be seen through His holiness. God’s love for all people is shown throughout Scripture, and God’s justice guarantees

them that sin must be punished. Throughout the Old Testament, God displayed His love for His people. Despite their rebellion, God constantly forgave them, often reaffirming His covenant with them. God's greatest act of love was shown when He gave His Son to die for humans who had sinned against Him. God's love and justice guaranteed God's redemption and restoration of Israel, and is extended to every individual even today. God's love and justice go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other."

Inside Out (interpretation)

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

Have the students read the text in this section (also found in the student book): "Sometimes when negative situations linger for a long time, it is easy to lose hope and believe that things will never get better." Remind the class that no matter how bad a situation may appear, God can fully restore His people to their rightful position as His blessed children. The gift of salvation and righteousness can only come from God." Encourage the students to invite God into their difficult situations and trust that He will bless them.

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 has been read, say, "The message of hope in Isaiah's prophecy is simple: Young people have problems too." Remind the students that no matter how dark and difficult their struggle has been, and no matter how people have despised and mistreated them, God sees them and takes delights in turning their situation around. Seeing His people overcome their struggles and giving them a fresh start is what makes God happy! Sooner or later, everyone will face a hardship or struggle in life. Encourage the students to remember that God is on their side, cheering for them to win!

CONNECT (10 minutes)

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

Have the students read the text in this section (also found in the student book): "In today's 'Reflect' story, Darius felt defeated because he wanted to make a new start but could not overcome the obstacles from what he had done in the past. Through the compassion of a young stranger, Darius was inspired to renew his relationship with God. The decision to start with God became the stepping stone he needed to overcome the challenges of reentering society after prison." Remind the students that they can beat any challenge by starting with God.

Stepping Out! (challenge)

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

After the text in this section of the student book has been read, say, "Like the nation of Israel, everyone sins against God." Challenge the class to consider the reasons why they sometimes fall short of doing what God expects. For each reason, they should write a positive action they can take to resist giving in to disobedience. Encourage them to pray, trusting that God can empower them to live righteously.

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 invited to visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4> and watch the video "Justice," published by the Bible Project. After viewing, invite the students to share their thoughts and how the video relates to today's lesson and God's love of justice.