

QUEST FOR GOD'S GREAT LIGHT

Children's Sunday

June 6, 2021

Overarching Theme: In 2021, FUMC will be SENT with the peace of Christ!

Instructions:

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. *The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.*

Core Point:

On Easter evening, the Risen Christ appears to his gathered disciple for the first time since Good Friday and speaks these words: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Just as Jesus sent his disciples into a divided, conflicted 1st Century with his peace, so he sends us into a divided, conflicted 2021 with his peace.

Isaiah:

The book of Isaiah is the first of the writings of the Prophets and it records the messages of the Prophet Isaiah who had an active ministry for about 60 years, speaking and writing mainly in Jerusalem, bringing God's word to the people and rulers of Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations. Isaiah prophesied during the reign of several of Judah's kings and they are as follows: Uzziah and Jotham (chapters 1-6), Ahaz (chapters 7-14), and Hezekiah (chapters 15-39). This first half of the book contains scathing denunciations and pronouncements as he called God's people as well as other nations to repent of their sins. He warned Israel and Judah of God's judgment and punishment in being scattered and taken away into exile if they did not heed God's message and it so happened. In the second half of the book (chapters 40-66) Isaiah brings the message of consolation and hope to the people of Judah who would be in exile as he unfolds God's promise of future blessings through the coming Messiah. So the first half of the book was probably written around 700 BC as the events in it took place earlier in his ministry and the second half of the book may have been written near the end of his life, around 681 BC. A key verse of this book is: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed" (53:5). Some of the special features of this book are: It contains both prose and poetry and uses personification (attributing personal qualities to divine beings or

inanimate objects); many of the prophecies in it contain predictions that foretell a soon-to-occur event and a distant future event at the same time.

– Adapted from The Life Application Bible, p. 1166.

Reflect on this Scripture:

Isaiah 60:1-2 CEB

¹ Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the LORD's glory has shone upon you.

² Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,
the LORD will shine upon you;
God's glory will appear over you.

This Week:

Isaiah was a prophet and although he had divine knowledge of God, he was human just like those he was writing to and speaking to. He did, however, have something that other people didn't have, a true prophet's heart. He could honestly see and feel the difference and also the distance between God and humanity. He could also see the bridge created by God to reach and love the people. Isaiah could see that God chooses to love humans even though they are often so rebellious. His goal was to put the heart of God in all who were listening to him. Isaiah's prophecy showed that his heart turned toward and not away from the heart of God.

In a world that has so much doom and gloom in it, there is always a light that we can go to. That light can only come from God. Isaiah's sole purpose was to show that God saves. In fact! Isaiah's name actually means just that, Yahweh saves! He shows how there are many different ways to understand how God saves in different times, different places and different situations. Isaiah shows that regardless of all of the bad things that may have happened or are happening, God is in control. God does not make these bad things happen, that is a result of humanity's sin. But God is still there ready to catch us when we fall.

In our verses today we read that we should arise and shine because our light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon us. During VBS this week our kids will be learning about different Bible stories and each one will tie to a special word. We are calling them "pathfinders." Day 1 has The Creation Story (Genesis 1:1–2:9) and the pathfinder is "Arise, Shine with Love." Day 2 has Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-20) and the pathfinder is "Arise, Shine with Trust." Day 3 has Faith Through the Roof (Luke 5:17-26) and the pathfinder is "Arise, Shine with Faith." Day 4 has The 'Lost' Parables (Luke 15) and the pathfinder is "Arise, Shine with Joy." Day

5 has Mary at the Tomb (John 20: 1-18) and the pathfinder is "Arise, Shine with Hope."

Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:

1. What is holding you back from 'arising and shining' although 'your light has come' to you?
2. If we truly believe that God is our light, how are we sharing that light with others? How are you shining with Love, Trust, Faith, Joy and Hope?
3. Isaiah used his gift of prophecy to share with humans that God is in control. How can we share our gifts to show others too that God is in control?

Activity for the Life of a Disciple:

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC.

2. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: Isaiah 60:19 CEB

¹⁹ The sun will no longer be your light by day,
nor will the moon shine for illumination by night.
The LORD will be your everlasting light;
your God will be your glory.

3. Isaiah was a prophet, who foretold of things to come. Read these words of Isaiah:

Isaiah 61:1-2

¹ The LORD God's spirit is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me.
He has sent me

to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor

In Luke chapter 4 we read that Jesus returned to Galilee and went to Nazareth. On the day of the Sabbath he went to the synagogue and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He read those words, rolled up the scroll and said, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it." Think about that.... Many times we can read in the New Testament something that had already been said in the Old Testament. Prayerfully think about the words of Isaiah and use them to go out and share the Light of God through Love, Trust, Faith, Joy and Love.