



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for December 12, 2010  
Released on Wednesday, December 8, 2010**

**"God Provides"**

**Lesson Text:** Isaiah 41:8-10, 17-20

**Background Scripture:** Isaiah 41:1-42:9

**Memory Verse:** "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God" (Isaiah 41:10).

**Isaiah 41:8-10, 17-20**

8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

.....

17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:

20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 9**

1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

.....

9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

## TEACHER'S NOTES

Chapter 41 of Isaiah continues that book's mixed theme of punishment and comfort. The Prophet Isaiah continued as God's spokesman.

Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of four kings of Judah—two good (Jotham and Hezekiah) and two disappointing and evil (Ahaz and Manasseh). In spite of Isaiah's warnings of certain judgment, the southern kingdom seemed determined to follow the ten northern tribes into idolatry.

God had necessarily pronounced "woe" upon both north and south (Isa. 28:1; 29:1), but that "woe" was followed by His gracious promise of chapter 41. In today's English, the Lord's message through Isaiah was "You, Israel, are My servant; I have chosen you. . . . Do not fear, for I am with you. . . . I am your God." In light of Israel's behavior, His promise was gracious indeed.

What will probably be most meaningful to the children, though, is not the grace demonstrated but that the Lord is present with them all the time. He promises never to leave the side of the one who belongs to Him.

The thought behind "leave" is to go on and leave another behind. The Lord will not do that. He will never forsake, never desert, those who are His. The God who cannot lie says so.

Children fear many things: the dark, the dog down the street, unfamiliar sounds in the night, gruff authority figures, or imaginary creatures under the bed. Others are afraid of strangers or that they will be left in a strange place or that a parent will die.

Isaiah 41:10 assures believing children they can count on the One who is strong enough to do anything. He is with them at all times. They will never be alone.

Unseen but seeing, both strong and caring, the One who cannot lie has promised to provide His trusting boys and girls with what they need.

It is well worth taking class time to help the children learn the memory verse. That memorizing will store away a precious promise that the Holy Spirit can bring to a child's mind in times of need.

The verse lends itself well to memorization since it falls naturally into four simple segments. Using the chalkboard or a large sheet of poster paper, you might print the four lines:

Fear thou not;  
for I am with thee:  
be not dismayed;  
for I am thy God (Isaiah 41:10).

Explain the verse. Then have the class read each line. Next ask them to read the lines twice and then three times. Have them stand and repeat it once more, clapping on each word.

Now ask the children to close their eyes. Tell them you want to find out whether they can say the verse without looking. In the unlikely event that most still cannot do this, lead them in reading it off the board or chart yet again.

Now ask, "Is there anybody who can say it all by himself with his eyes shut?" Let the boys and girls volunteer until all have done so. Then have the entire class quote the verse one more time.

By this time, of course, not just the children will have God's encouraging promise stored away for future use. So will their teacher.

### THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that the strong Lord God is with His people and promises to help them when they have need.

### TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God has promised never to leave His people all by themselves.
2. God's people do not need to be afraid, for God will be there to provide what they need.
3. God's people may safely believe what He promises, for God never lies.

## **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Beginning the Lesson, with a colored felt pen, make a sign reading "Promise."

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a large red heart and pictures of Israelites building a city, an idol, and a Bible-time crowd.

For Helping to Remember, take for each student crayons and eight different-colored 3/4-by-8-inch strips of construction paper. Take a stapler for your own use.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each child (located at the end of this lesson).

## **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Did anyone ever make a promise to you? (Show "Promise.") Tell me what a promise is. (Accept answers.)

Yes, making a promise is telling somebody else you will do something or you will not do something. "I will take you for some ice cream as soon as we finish shopping." That is a promise. "I will come home right after school." That is a promise. "I will put *away* my toys before I watch any television" is a promise. Most of the time "I will" means that a promise is coming. (Show "Promise.")

I am sorry to say that men and women and boys and girls do not always do what they promise to do. They forget, or they change their minds, or they find out they cannot do the thing they promised to do, or they never meant to keep their promise anyway. For whatever reason, people do not always keep their promises. But God does! Our lesson is about a promise God once made to His people. (Show "Promise.") Let us find out what He promised.

## **TELLING THE LESSON**

God's people the Israelites were doing something very foolish when God made His promise to them.

For a long time they had lived in a place called Egypt, and the people there had made them work hard. It was not fun work, either. They had to make bricks and build cities, day after day and year after year. (Show Israelites working.) The Israelites were very tired of working. They just wanted to be free.

The Lord knew what was happening. When the time was right, He took them away from Egypt to live in a beautiful new place where they could be happy.

He told them to be careful. You see, other people lived close by, and those other people did not pray to the Lord. Those people made gods for themselves out of gold and silver. (Show idol.)

The Lord said to the Israelites, "You must be very careful not to do that."

The Israelites were not careful, though, and that was when they did something very foolish. They began making gold and silver and stone idols too. (Show idol.) They began praying to pretend gods, just like all the people who lived around them.

The Lord knew the best thing to do was just to let His people get into big trouble. Trouble would remind them that they needed to start pleasing Him by doing what was right.

The Lord still wanted them to know He loved them, even though they had had been foolish. (Show heart.) He sent His friend Isaiah to tell them about the trouble that was going to come. But then He wanted Isaiah to tell them that He also said, "Fear not. Do not be afraid, because I am with you."

The people really never needed to be afraid, no matter what bad things happened to them, as long as the strong, loving Lord God was with them. (Show heart.) And He would be with them. He would not leave them alone. What a good promise that was!

Isaiah said it was God Himself who had picked them out to be His own special people. (Show crowd.) They still belonged to Him and to no one else, even if they had been foolish. And He loved them. (Show heart.)

God said that they must not look around and worry about what might happen. He would not let go of them. The strong Lord God Himself would be right there when they needed help. He would never leave them. He would make them strong when trouble came. When they needed something very much, He would hear their prayers. He was still their God.

That was the wonderful promise the Lord made to His people. (Show crowd.) It would be a good promise to remember when their times of trouble came. It was the kind of promise that would comfort them. It was a good promise, and God always keeps His promises. (Show "Promise.") When He said He would do something, they could be sure He would. What was it He promised to do? Tell me. "I am with you. I will help you."

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

Boys and girls can have times of trouble sometimes too, even when they have not done foolish things. When trouble happens to you, remember that you are not by yourself. Remember who promised, "I am with you. I will help you."

Think who it is who is with you. It is Jesus. You cannot see Him, but that is all right. He can see you, and Jesus knows how to give you just the kind of help you need.

Now, we do not always get the kind of help we want. Sometimes the Lord says no because what we think we want is not good for us. But He will always give us the help we need to do what He wants. And that is the best kind of help there is.

He can make you as strong as you need to be. He says, "I am with you. I am your God. I will never leave you" (cf. Heb. 13:5).

That promise makes me glad. Does it make you glad? Let us thank Him that He will do what He says.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Tell the children they will make something to decorate the Christmas tree. They should print, one word on each paper strip, "I am with you. I will help you." Staple together each child's links to form a chain.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE**

**"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God" (Isaiah 41:10).**

God's people were going to have trouble. He told them, "Do not be afraid, because I am with you. Do not keep looking around, wondering what to do, because I am your God." They did not need to be afraid. God was there, and He would help.

### **CONCLUSION**

God will always be with us! Therefore, we don't have to be afraid.

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we thank You even in difficult situations because we have the reminder of Your words when You say to us, "I am your God ...fear not." We thank You for this assurance, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

In next week's lesson, "God's Servant," we will reflect on God's grace and mercy towards us. God sent His son Jesus to serve Him and to save us. Study Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:1-8.

## **LESSON SUMMARIZED BY**

Willie Ferrell

Jesus Is All Ministries

[www.jesusisall.com](http://www.jesusisall.com)

## **WORKS CITED**

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

## WORD SEARCH

### "God Provides" (Isaiah 41:8-10, 17-20)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

ABRAHAM

CALLED

CHOSEN

CREATED

EARTH

FRIEND

GOD

HAND

HEAR

HELP

HOLY

ISRAEL

JACOB

LORD

PLANT

SEE

SERVANT

THIRST

TOGETHER

TREE

WATER

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

21 words were placed into the puzzle.

## SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

### "God Provides" (Isaiah 41:8-10, 17-20)

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A + W E D D + R + C + S I + +
+ B E A E N E + E R E S + + +
T R R L T H A A + E R + + P +
T S L A T E R H J A C O B L +
L A R E H T R + E T + D + A +
C O G I H A + L + E + N + N +
+ O R + H + M + + D R E + T +
T + + D + T P L E H A I + + +
+ + S E R V A N T + E R + + +
+ + + + + + + + + H F + + +
N E S O H C + + + + G + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + O + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + D + + + +
+ + + + + H O L Y + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +
```

(Over, Down, Direction)

ABRAHAM(1, 1, SE)  
CALLED(1, 6, NE)  
CHOSEN(6, 11, W)  
CREATED(10, 1, S)  
EARTH(9, 2, SW)  
FRIEND(12, 10, N)  
GOD(11, 11, S)  
HAND(8, 4, NW)  
HEAR(11, 10, N)  
HELP(10, 8, W)  
HOLY(7, 14, E)  
ISRAEL(13, 1, SW)  
JACOB(9, 4, E)  
LORD(1, 5, SE)  
PLANT(14, 3, S)  
SEE(12, 1, SW)  
SERVANT(3, 9, E)  
THIRST(6, 8, NW)  
TOGETHER(1, 8, NE)  
TREE(1, 4, NE)  
WATER(3, 1, SE)