



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for December 26, 2010  
Released on Wednesday, December 22, 2010**

**"God Is Always Present"**

**Lesson Text:** Isaiah 43:1-7, 11,12

**Background Scripture:** Isaiah 43:1-28

**Memory Verse:** "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee" (Isaiah 43:2).

**Isaiah 43:1-7, 10-12**

1 But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

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10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.

**TEACHER'S NOTES**

The last two verses of Isaiah 42 provide a remarkable backdrop for the Lord's promises that come in chapter 43. Perhaps better put, God's gracious promises of chapter 43 are remarkable in light of Isaiah 42:24,25.

Isaiah 42 concludes by telling us that the Lord Himself ordained the southern kingdom's coming captivity in Babylon because "they would not walk in his ways" (v. 24). That solemn announcement is immediately followed by one promise after another of God's continuing presence and help and future deliverance.

The Lord told them He had created the nation. The word for "created" in Isaiah 43:1 is the same word used in Genesis 1:1: "God created the heaven and the earth." He had particularly called them to be His. They were nothing as the earth had been nothing. He brought them into being, and they were precious to Him (Isa. 43:4). It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word here comes from a word meaning "to be heavy."

The image here is of a man in olden times going into the marketplace carrying a bag of silver. There is an object he wants to buy. These were the days before the use of paper money. The man indicated to the seller what he wanted, and some silver was piled on the seller's scale. Would that be enough to satisfy the seller? Probably not, and they probably haggled. How important the object was to the buyer was indicated by how many ounces of silver he was willing to put on the scale. The heaviness of the silver the buyer was willing to pay tells how precious the object was to him.

That appears to be how the Hebrew word translated "precious" found its meaning from the Hebrew root word that means "heavy." In spite of Israel's disobedience and the discipline the Lord was sending, she was still precious in His sight.

God gave Israel one good promise after another. The waters and flames of trouble would neither sweep her away nor consume her. He loved her still and would one day call her back from all the lands where she had been dispersed.

The reason for these good promises was to give encouragement. Troubles were indeed coming, but the Lord assured the people that He would be with them. They were still His, and He had good plans for them. The unspoken message was "Trust Me."

When trouble strikes, we too need the encouraging message that we are not alone. "I will never leave thee" (Heb. 13:5) is such a message. When we feel alone, it is encouraging to remember that we are precious in the Lord's sight. He paid much more than a scale full of silver for us. He loves to plan for our welfare, not calamity, for His dear children (Jer. 29:11).

Jesus will be there. We have His word.

#### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that God promises to stay with His children in their times of trouble.

#### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

- 1.** The Lord promised to stay with His people the Israelites in any trouble that came.
- 2.** He promised to be with them in times of trouble because they were precious (highly important) to Him.
- 3.** Jesus has promised His people today that He will never leave them.

#### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Beginning the Lesson, find a picture showing a teacher and students in a classroom.

For Telling the Lesson, you will need pictures of an idol, Bible-time soldiers, a crowd of Israelites, and the world (globe). Also make two signs: "Trouble" and "Precious."

For Helping to Remember, take a plain paper plate, crayons, and safety scissors (blunt tip) for each child. Bring green leaves, or green construction paper, and red holly berries, or red construction paper. Take sharp scissors for your own use. (Keep it well away from the children's hands.)

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

#### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

When your school teacher says, "Boys and girls, tomorrow we shall have a spelling test over all our new words," what do you do? (Show teacher and students.) If you are wise, you will study the words. You will get ready because you know what is going to happen.

We do not always know just what is going to happen, but God does. He knows what happened yesterday, what is happening right now, and what will happen tomorrow. Did you ever think what a good thing that is for us? Because God knows everything that is

going to happen to us, He can make us ready for it. And that is just what He did long ago for His people the Israelites.

### **TELLING THE LESSON**

Trouble was coming. You will remember that it was the Israelites' own fault. (Show "Trouble.")

Other people were taking stones and gold and making themselves idol gods to pray to. (Show idol.) The Lord had told His people not to do that. He was their God. But they would not listen. And when people do not listen to God, trouble is sure to come.

This time strong soldiers from a far-away place would march into their country to fight against them. (Show soldiers.) Those soldiers were going to take *away* all their gold things, their silver things, and anything else they wanted. Worst of all, they would take God's people to a place far from home and make them stay there.

The Israelites did not know just what was going to happen to them or when. (Show Israelites.) But God did. And because God loved His people, even though they were not obeying Him, He wanted to make them ready for the time of trouble.

You see, He knew how unhappy and afraid they would feel. He knew they would think He had gone away and left them. So God sent His friend Isaiah to tell them, "Do not be afraid. I am with you. . . . I am your God. . . . I will help you."

The Lord had Isaiah tell them He was the one who had made them. Does anyone happen to remember the very first verse in the Bible? That is the verse that says, "God created (God made) the heaven and the earth." (Show world.) He wanted His people to know He had made *them* too. They belonged to Him, and He had called them to come be His special people.

Then God made a wonderful promise. This is what He promised: "When you wade through the river of trouble, I will be with you. When you walk through the fire of trouble, it will not burn you." Why not? The Lord would be right there with them to give whatever kind of help they needed. Do you think God's people would feel better about being taken away from home when they remembered God was right there with them? He knew that promise would comfort them when the time of trouble came.

The Lord wanted them to know how very important they were to Him. He told them they were "precious." (Display "Precious," and leave the sign standing.) What does that mean? Well, before people had paper dollars, they often used pieces of silver to buy things. A man would bring some silver to the store, and they would put it on a scale to see how heavy it was. The more special the thing was that the man wanted, the heavier his pile of silver had to be. And if he paid a heavy pile of silver for something, that showed it was extra important to him. Heavy was good.

God said His people were important to Him. The word our Bible uses is "precious." (Point to "Precious.") Because the Israelites were important to Him, He would stay with them. They did not need to worry. He would not leave them all by themselves. He would be right there. He would help them all the time they were in trouble. And someday He would bring them back home from wherever they were.

Because He said so, they could be sure the Lord would stay with them while they were in a faraway place. They could be sure He would help them—because He said so. They were precious to Him. He said so. He said He had made them His own special people, and now they were His witnesses. That meant that they could tell others what a good God He was.

No matter where they were, the Lord would always be with them. And that was good news for God's people to hear.

## **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

"I will be with thee" (Isa. 43:2). When the Lord said those words, He was talking to His people the Israelites. But He says the same thing to His people who are living today. He says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). (Point to the verse in your Bible.)

If you have trusted in Jesus as your Saviour, that good news is for you too. Yes, sometimes you will have troubles. Everybody does. But Jesus will be right there with you.

You can count on Him to help, for you too are precious—very important—to Him. (Point to "Precious.")

## **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Tell the students to print around the outside edge of their plates "I Will Be with You" and add green leaves and red holly berries. With your sharp scissors, make a starting hole in the center of each plate. Then let the children cut out the center of their wreaths.

## **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE**

**"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee" (Isaiah 43:2).**

This Bible verse is a kind of poem. The Lord is not talking about real water or real rivers. He is talking about the troubles people have. People sometimes feel their troubles are so big they will be drowned by them. So God made this wonderful promise: "When you feel as if you are going to be drowned in all your troubles, I will be with you. I promise I will not let those troubles be too much for you."

## **CONCLUSION**

Children can be introduced to the idea that there is only one God. This one God loves us and says we are His people. That means He will always be there and never give up on us.

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we thank You because of who You are! We stand on Your wonderful promise "I will be with thee," in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

Next week's lesson is "God Never Forgets." God will never forget His promise to bring His people back to their homeland. Study Isaiah 44:21-26.

## **LESSON SUMMARIZED BY**

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## WORD SEARCH

### "God Is Always Present" (Isaiah 43:1-7, 11,12)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

CALLED

DECLARED

GLORY

JACOB

MINE

SAVED

SONS

CREATED

FEAR

GOD

LIFE

NAME

SAVIOUR

STRANGE

DAUGHTERS

FIRE

ISRAEL

LORD

PRECIOUS

SIGHT

WITNESS

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

21 words were placed into the puzzle.

## SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

### "God Is Always Present" (Isaiah 43:1-7, 11,12)

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E R I F + + + + D + + + + M +  
W G O D + + + + E + S + I + +  
I + D + + + + + R + + N I + R  
T S R E T H G U A D E S O U T  
N + O + + Y + E L + R + O S H  
E + L B R + F + C A + I + + G  
S + + O O I + + E + V + + + I  
S U L + L C + L D A + + + + S  
+ G O + F + A + S + + + N + +  
+ + + I + E + J + T + + A + +  
+ + + + C + A + + + R + M + +  
S A V E D E + R + + + A E + +  
+ + + + + C R E A T E D N + +  
D E L L A C + P + + + + + G +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + E
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(Over, Down, Direction)

CALLED (6, 14, W)  
CREATED (6, 13, E)  
DAUGHTERS (10, 4, W)  
DECLARED (9, 8, N)  
FEAR (5, 9, SE)  
FIRE (4, 1, W)  
GLORY (2, 9, NE)  
GOD (2, 2, E)  
ISRAEL (13, 3, SW)  
JACOB (8, 10, NW)  
LIFE (5, 8, NE)  
LORD (3, 6, N)  
MINE (14, 1, SW)  
NAME (13, 9, S)  
PRECIOUS (8, 14, NW)  
SAVED (1, 12, E)  
SAVIOUR (9, 9, NE)  
SIGHT (15, 8, N)  
SONS (14, 5, NW)  
STRANGE (9, 9, SE)  
WITNESS (1, 2, S)

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.