



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for December 5, 2010
Released on Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

"People Are Comforted"

Lesson Text: Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-26, 29-31

Background Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-31

Memory Verse: "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-26, 29-31

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

.....
25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

.....
29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.
30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God's children are comforted by thinking of what their Father in heaven is like: strong, wise, loving, protective, and good.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. What God has created demonstrates how strong He is.
2. The Lord likens Himself to a shepherd who wisely and lovingly cares for all his sheep's needs.
3. Remembering what God is like, both able and willing to take care of us, gives us comfort.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, find a picture of a young boy and girl.

For Telling the Lesson, have pictures of Isaiah, a biblical king, a starry sky, mountains, and a shepherd with his sheep. Prepare signs reading "Comfort," "Strong," "Good," "Wise," "Kind," "Loving," "Friendly," and "Protecting."

For Helping to Remember, each child will need crayons and half a sheet of light green construction paper cut lengthwise.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each child.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: 700 – 695 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

"Comfort ye my people" (Isaiah 40:1), God told the Prophet Isaiah. Most definitions of "comfort" would probably fall under this general one: To comfort another is to brighten his outlook, whatever the situation.

It is enlightening to note that when the Lord charged Isaiah to speak words that would brighten His people's outlook, He attached that comfort to information about Himself.

On the one hand, He likened Himself to a kindly shepherd who wisely and gently fed his flock, carried the lambs, and led the ewes who needed extra care (Isa. 40:11). This passage, of course, reminds us of Psalm 23, in which David too viewed the Lord as the Shepherd of a contented flock. He leads His sheep in paths that are good. He is with them while walking through the dark and dangerous places. They need not fear, for He is fully equipped to act on their behalf. He provides what they need, including gentle treatment of hurts incurred along the way. And they can expect such good care to continue. Knowing all that brightens one's outlook indeed!

Then the Lord turned to another reason to take comfort. He is not only the kindly Shepherd but also the One who holds the very universe in His hand (Isa. 40:12). He has stretched out the sky. His power keeps the stars in their place. He created the mountains. He poured water into the seas. No one needed to give Him a word of instruction.

Such a God is powerful enough to cope with any need we may ever have. His shepherd qualities demonstrate His willingness to do so. And that is truth to brighten our outlook as well as the outlook of our boys and girls.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

The Jones family had just moved into a new house. It was at the end of a dark street way out at the edge of town. No other house was even close by. Both Jack and Judy thought the place was a little scary at night. (Show boy and girl.)

Now Dad and Mom had to be away for three whole days. Uncle Tim was going to stay with them in the new house on that scary street. They both liked Uncle Tim, but neither felt good about Dad and Mom being gone.

"What if we get sick?" Judy asked.

"Your Uncle Tim is a parent; so he knows about sick boys and girls," Mom said. "He will know if you need a doctor."

"But what if a robber gets in?" Jack wanted to know.

Dad said, "That is not likely to happen. But if it does, Uncle Tim is a strong and brave and wise man. He will know what to do, and he will do it."

Jack and Judy had a few more what-if questions, and the answer was always the same. They did not need to worry. Uncle Tim was the kind of man who could take care of anything that needed to be done.

Those words made both Jack and Judy feel better. Grown-ups would say they felt comforted.

Some people in the Bible needed to hear some comforting words. Let us find out who said the words and what those words were.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Isaiah was one of the king's good helpers. (Show Isaiah.) Isaiah was so wise that he was able to tell the king what he should do and what he should not do. (Show king.) Sometimes he would say, "This time the best thing to do is —." Other times, he would say, "No, no, no. Doing that would be bad for God's people. Instead of doing what you are thinking of doing, it is better to believe that the Lord will take care of us."

What made Isaiah such a good helper for the king was that first he listened to what God told him to say. Then he said it. (Show Isaiah.)

One day there was something the Lord wanted Isaiah to tell all God's people, not just the king.

"Comfort My people," the Lord said. (Show "Comfort.")

Think about what that word "comfort" means. People are comforted when somebody makes them feel better about whatever is happening or is going to happen. Mostly people try to comfort other people with the words they say to them, and that is what Isaiah did. He used some wonderful words too. They were really the Lord's words.

The Lord wanted Isaiah to speak words that would make His people feel better about what was happening; so He said, "Comfort My people." (Show "Comfort.") You see, God is a kind and friendly God. (Show "Kind" and "Friendly.") He wanted His people to know that.

Isaiah began telling the people what God is like. Just knowing what God is like would comfort them no matter what trouble they might be having.

"The Lord is strong," Isaiah said. (Show "Strong.") We know that just by looking at the sky. (Show starry sky.) God was strong enough to put the sky where it is. He made the stars, and He keeps every one of them from falling down. How many stars are there? We cannot even count them all, but the Lord knows the name of every one of them. (He knows your name too.) That is what God is like, and that is comforting to know.

God made the high mountains. (Show mountains.) He made the little hills. He did not need anyone to tell Him how. Nobody had to help Him. And doing all that did not make Him tired. That is what God is like.

He is strong enough to be in charge of the whole world, and He wanted His people to know He was strong enough to take care of them too. (Show "Strong.") That is what God is like, and that is comforting to know.

Isaiah said the Lord is not just strong. He is also good. (Show "Good.") He is like a wise and kind shepherd taking care of his sheep. (Show shepherd and sheep.) The people listening to Isaiah knew all about shepherds. They knew what a good shepherd does.

A good shepherd is wise. (Show "Wise.") That means he knows what is best for his sheep. He makes sure they have enough to eat. He makes sure they have clean water to drink. He takes them to quiet places at resting time.

He knows they need to be protected from their enemies, and he protects them. (Show "Protecting.") Sheep cannot fight off the wolves and bears that want to hurt them; a good shepherd can, and he does.

Why does a good shepherd take such good care of his sheep? It is because a good shepherd is loving. (Show "Loving.") When a little lamb could not walk as fast as the grown-up sheep, do you know what a good shepherd would do? He would pick up that lamb and carry it in his arms. Isaiah said the Lord is just like that kind of shepherd. He knows what His people need, and He takes good care of them because He loves them.

"Remember what God is like, and be comforted," Isaiah said. "You have a good Shepherd. He loves you. He can make you strong when you feel tired from all your troubles. You can count on the strong Lord to make you as strong as you need to be."

That is what Isaiah told God's people. It must have been very comforting news for them to hear.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

It is comforting news for us too. Just think, if you are God's child, you have a heavenly Father who loves you with a special love. You have a good Shepherd who will make sure you have everything you need. Your good Shepherd is wise. He knows what is best for you to do, and He will show you what that is. He is strong enough to protect you from your enemy, Satan.

Thinking of what God is like should comfort us. Let us pray and say thank You that the Lord is the kind of God He is —kind and friendly, strong and good.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have each student turn his paper lengthwise and draw a string of seven Christmas lights hanging from the upper left to the upper right corner. Then they should turn their papers and print under each light one attribute of God: "He is strong," "He is kind," "He is friendly," "He is good," "He is wise," "He is loving," and "He is protecting." Across the top, have them title their pictures "What God Is Like."

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

This verse tells us God will help His people when they are tired from all the troubles they are having. When they are not strong enough to keep trying by themselves, our strong God will make them stronger.

CONCLUSION:

In troubling times, we as believers can find help in our Lord who gives comfort and makes us strong. It is easy for us to put our hope and trust in God because of who He is. No one and nothing is like God. He is strong and wise and able to take care of us.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for the comfort we have because of who You are. We thank You for being strong, wise, loving and good. Help us to always trust and hope in You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "God Provides" and teaches that God is always with us. He has promised to never leave us and will be there to provide what we need. Study Isaiah 41:1 - 42:9.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"People Are Comforted" (Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-26, 29-31)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

LOVING

SHEPHERD

STARS

EAGLES

MESSAGE

PEOPLE

COMFORT

KIND

RUN

MOUNTAINS

PROTECT

ISAIAH

NAME

GOOD

WALK

STRONG

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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"People Are Comforted" (Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-26, 29-31)

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