

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE®**

Daily

Discipleship Guide

ADULTS • CSB
FALL 2025

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME
HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS



LEADING SOMEONE TO THE GREATEST DECISION OF ALL

One of the great joys of leading a Bible study group is seeing group members deepen their walk with Christ. Everyone's walk with Christ begins with an initial decision to follow Him in repentance and faith. You may have individuals in your group who haven't yet made that decision. Take advantage of your time with them to talk about becoming a Christian.

As you tell your own story about coming to Christ, share these key truths:

1. We're all sinners and need to acknowledge that truth before God. That acknowledgment involves repentance, a genuine turning from sin toward God. Refer to Romans 3:23; 6:23; and Acts 3:19.
2. The only way a person can receive the gift of forgiveness is by faith in Jesus as God's Son. Use verses like Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 14:6 when talking about faith in Christ.
3. Confessing your faith in Jesus Christ means believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that He is Savior and Lord. Share Romans 10:9-10,13.

Invite the person to pray a prayer similar to this:

"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner and have rebelled against You in many ways. I believe Jesus died for my sin, and only through faith in His death and resurrection can I be forgiven. I now turn from my sin, and ask Jesus to forgive me and come into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will choose to follow Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for loving me and forgiving me. In Jesus's name I pray, Amen."

A Special Note about "The Greatest Gift" (Unit 1, Session 4)

As your group studies and discusses this session, use it as an opportunity to lead unsaved group members and guests to faith in Christ. Use "The Perfect Gift" on the inside front cover of the Daily Discipleship Guide to connect the session with each individual's own need to place his or her hope and trust in Christ and receive His gift of salvation. The inside cover is a guide for understanding how Jesus provides the one thing we truly need.

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DON'T MISS THIS!

eBook

Bible Studies for Life is also available as an eBook. You can order a copy at Lifeway.com/bsflebook.

EXTRA!

Every week, you'll find additional discussion questions and creative teaching ideas to help you tailor each session to the needs of your group. You'll also find links to magazine articles and the *Family Connection* page for parents.

www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra

Podcast

Get free weekly insights for every session of *Bible Studies for Life* with our podcast. Each 20-minute episode will help you get the most out of your upcoming study. Listen at the gym, on the drive home, or wherever is best for you. Just search "Bible Studies for Life Adults" on your favorite podcast app to start listening today.

Social Media

Connect with a community of *Bible Studies for Life* users. Post responses to questions, share teaching ideas, and link to great blog content. [Facebook.com/groups/biblestudiesfl](https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblestudiesfl)

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit Lifeway.com/DoctrinalGuideline.

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Bible Studies for Life: Daily Discipleship Guide often lists websites that may be helpful to our readers. Our staff verifies each site's usefulness and appropriateness prior to publication. However, website content changes quickly so we encourage you to approach all websites with caution. Make sure sites are still appropriate before sharing them with students, friends, and family.

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WELCOME

A change of season is upon us! For many of us, fall means getting back into a routine, and a valuable part of any routine is a regular connection with others around God's Word. The book you're holding will help you do just that.

This issue of *Bible Studies for Life* includes two studies built on our plan for discipleship and growing deeper in our walk with Christ. "The Greatest Truths of All Time" helps us engage with Scripture and hits on the central themes throughout God's Word. "How to Handle Life's Interruptions" helps us deepen our obedience to God because interruptions are a good indicator of who's in charge of our lives. This study pushes us to obediently trust God rather than our own plans.

I encourage you to read a little more about the plan and strategy behind *Bible Studies for Life*. Check out pages 14–15 to see how these studies contribute to your walk with Christ.

Enjoy these studies built on God's Word. May He richly bless your time with your Bible study group!

Gena Rogers

Content Editor, *Bible Studies for Life*

HOW TO USE BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE

Because God is the guide for your study, invite Him to show you how to be the best facilitator for your group. Read the Bible passage several times with the Holy Spirit showing you its meaning and application.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Everyone in your group will need a copy of the *Daily Discipleship Guide*. This resource includes:

- **Group pages.** This is the content you will study in your weekly gatherings. This material is also included in this Leader Guide.
- **Live It Out.** This section is designed to help your group apply the study content in the form of actions they carry out during the week. Encourage them to choose at least one action to pursue further.
- **Talk It Out.** This section is designed to encourage two or three individuals to gather during the week and discuss further the passage, its relevance to their lives, and ways they can live it out.
- **Daily Study pages.** Five daily readings provide an opportunity to dig deeper into the Scripture text and Bible study material. Encourage your group to study this content during the week.

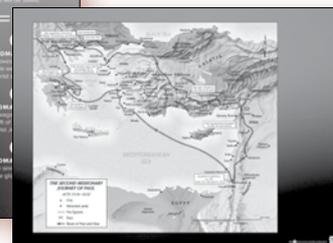
LEADER GUIDE

This Leader Guide provides valuable, customizable content for use in your weekly group meetings. As you prepare to lead your group sessions:

- Begin by asking God to open your mind and heart to His Word. Read the passage in your Bible, noting key words and phrases.
- Review the Group Plans and make adjustments to fit the needs and personality of your group. These plans will guide you to engage your group in discussion around the Bible passage.
- Read the commentary for the passage. Share insights from the commentary as needed during your group discussion.
- Occasionally you will see a QR code in this book. Use your phone to open the QR code for bonus digital content.
- Gather the Leader Pack items you plan to use in your group time.



Posters



Handouts





To learn how to best use these resources, watch this brief video.



LEADER PACK

The optional Leader Pack is designed to enhance the group experience, especially for visual learners. Pull in the Leader Pack items as referenced in the group plan. The Leader Pack also provides access to a variety of digital files, including:

- JPG files of the two main study images that you can use with any presentation software (ie., PowerPoint). (Promote the study by placing these images into an announcement slideshow or display the images during the sessions to reinforce the study topic.)
- PDF file of each pack item. (Create multiple posters; during your sessions, display images on a screen using any presentation software; post images on social media to promote the study.)
- Sample Twitter® and email messages to post prior to your Bible study time to raise awareness and promote the session topic.
- An electronic version of the group plans that you can customize and print.
- Promotional videos to introduce both of the studies in this quarter.
- *Biblical Illustrator* articles that allow you to go deeper in your study.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Additional discussion questions and teaching suggestions for leaders are available online at BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra.

A twenty-minute podcast is available for each session, providing an overview and insights to help you prepare. Search “Bible Studies for Life Adults” on your favorite podcast app or go to MinistryGrid.com/BibleStudiesforLife.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GO DEEPER

The *Advanced Bible Study* is written for group members who desire more extensive commentary. It includes exposition of each session’s Scripture passage, an examination of key words, an introduction to the setting of the passage and biblical life and times, questions to guide the study, and interactive responses to help readers apply God’s truths to their lives today.



What Preschoolers Taught Me About Leading Adults

By Dwayne McCrary

One of the more desired rewards in a preschool class is being the line leader. For those who earn this reward, the first thing they share with their parents at the end of the day is that they got to be the line leader. They earned the prize by setting an example for the rest of the class to follow. In most cases, the line leader is the one exhibiting the behavior desired by the teacher. In some cases, a child is chosen by the teacher in hopes the child will display the desired behavior. Either way, the line leader sets the standard for the day.

When we accepted the role of leading an ongoing Bible study group, we became the line leaders for our groups. It's even possible we've shared with our family members that we're a group leader! Let's think about how the line leader in a preschool class helps us understand our role as adult group leaders.

SETS THE EXAMPLE

As already stated, the line leader serves as an example for everyone else to follow. That is how he or she gets to be the line leader in the first place. The others know that the line leader represents the expectations for the rest of the class.

When we accept the role of group leader, we also accept the responsibility of representing what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. Our willingness to follow Jesus should be one thing that qualifies us to be a group leader. Following matters.



As strange as this may seem, the title of leader is earned by a willingness to follow. The preschooler follows the expectations defined by the teacher, and adult group leaders follow the expectations defined by the Teacher. Following qualifies us to lead.

One of the roles we play as the group leader is maintaining a focus on reaching those far from God.

FOCUSES ON THE TASK

The preschool line leader focuses on the assigned task, which usually includes holding the rope, walking with purpose, and guiding the rest of the class to a specific destination. Holding the rope may be the biggest challenge for the line leader because other children often let go as they make their way down a hall or through a group of other preschoolers.

Lots of distractions exist that can take the attention of an adult Bible study group as well. We can become focused on physical needs, world events, and class socials, and forget where we're headed. None of these are bad if they don't become the primary focus of the group.

One of the roles we play as group leaders is maintaining a focus on reaching those far from God. This includes challenging ourselves to be more intentional about praying for those who don't yet know Him and making sure our group does the same. If we lose sight of the main thing, so will everyone else in our group.

BRINGS OTHERS ALONG

The preschool line leader brings others along for a walk. He or she encourages classmates to grab the rope and join the journey. The line leader also helps those who get disconnected and lose their grip to reconnect, making sure everyone arrives safely.

As adult Bible study group leaders, we get to encourage others to join our group so they can discover biblical truths together. We may be called on to contact others struggling and in danger of becoming stragglers. Our role is to provide everyone with an opportunity to arrive safely.

Everyone arriving safely may mean we add a second "rope" and show others how to be group leaders. We can then make room for more people to grab part of the rope. Apprenticing others to become great line leaders may be more important than we realize. There really isn't a better way to become a great line leader than learning from those already doing it.

We have the privilege of being line leaders for the Bible study groups we lead. We can set an example, help our groups remain focused, and bring others with us on the journey. We make our heavenly Father proud when we serve well as line leaders.

Dwayne McCrary is the manager of adult ongoing Bible studies at Lifeway.

THE PATHWAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Growing in Christ is a journey—a lifelong journey—but what does that look like? Lifeway’s research reveals eight markers consistently present in the lives of believers who are growing spiritually. Each year, *Bible Studies for Life* engages all eight of these areas. Following this intentional plan for discipleship ensures progress on the pathway to becoming more like Christ.

Visit www.BibleStudiesforLife.com for a fuller picture of this discipleship plan through 2026.

| | FALL 2025 | WINTER 2025-26 | SPRING 2026 | SUMMER 2026 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE | The Greatest Truths of All Time | | | |
| OBEY GOD & DENY SELF | How to Handle Life’s Interruptions | | | |
| EXERCISE FAITH | | Limited Resources, Limitless God | | |
| SHARE CHRIST | | Sharing Jesus in a Post-Christian World | | |
| SEEK GOD | | | God Is: Understanding the Character of God | |
| LIVE UNASHAMED | | | Seize the Day: Embracing a Mission with Purpose | |
| BUILD RELATIONSHIPS | | | | Connecting with Others Like Jesus Did |
| SERVE GOD AND OTHERS | | | | Essentials for Christian Living |

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

How this study supports the Discipleship Plan:

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE. The six subjects in this study hit on the central themes throughout Scripture.

- Session 1** The Greatest Name • Isaiah 42:1-12
- Session 2** The Greatest Need • Luke 5:17-26
- Session 3** The Greatest Sin • Matthew 12:22-32
- Session 4** The Greatest Gift • Romans 5:6-11,18-21
- Session 5** The Greatest Command • Mark 12:28-34
- Session 6** The Greatest Return • 1 Thessalonians 4:16–5:8

HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS

How this study supports the Discipleship Plan:

OBEY GOD AND DENY SELF. Our response to life's interruptions is a good indicator of who's in charge of our lives. This study pushes us to obediently trust God rather than our own plans.

- Session 1** When God Interrupts Your Life • Hebrews 11:8-19
- Session 2** When Life Goes Terribly Wrong • Genesis 39:21-23; 40:5-8; 41:10-14
- Session 3** When Your Actions Cause an Interruption • Exodus 2:11-22; 3:5-10
- Session 4** When Well-Meaning People Interrupt Your Plans • Luke 8:40-50,54-56
- Session 5** When a Time of Inactivity Slows You Down • Acts 1:4-8,12-14; 2:1-4
- Session 6** When Doing God's Work Is Interrupted • Acts 16:4-15

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

We live in a culture of extremes. If we eat a new dish, we claim it's the greatest meal ever. This year's vacation has to be better than last year, or we consider it a loss. As soon as a rising star achieves the first championship, we start to wonder if they'll become the GOAT. When we describe everything as the best ever, the term *greatest* loses its power.

Jesus is in a category all by Himself. He doesn't do anything halfway. That's why when we think about who He is and what He does, there's no way to consider Him anything other than the greatest. There's no name as powerful as His. He takes care of our deepest spiritual needs. He provides us with direction like no other. There was no life like His, no sacrifice like His, no victory like His, and we await a return like no other. Jesus is the greatest of all time. And within His Word, He provides us with the greatest truths that sustain us in uncertain times like these.



Study Introduction:

Here's why this six-session study is important.

AUTHOR

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THE GREATEST NAME

THE POINT

There is only one God and only His name deserves glory.

THE PASSAGE

Isaiah 42:1-12

LIFE CONNECTION

People love to debate who the GOAT—Greatest of All Time—is in this field or that. Opinions may vary, but there is One who stands above all others regardless of the field. God Himself is the greatest. Period. We might give applause and accolades to others for their endeavors, but there's only one God, and He alone is truly glorious and praiseworthy.

BACKGROUND

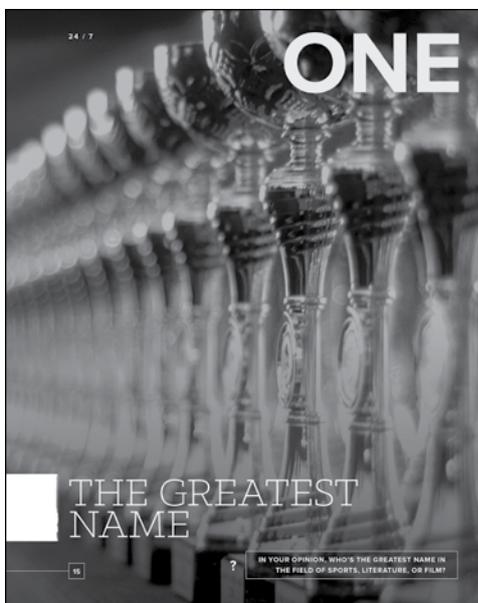
The eighth-century BC prophet Isaiah wrote this book. His name means “Yahweh saves.” Isaiah ministered in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, although he also prophesied concerning the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Isaiah’s wife was called “the prophetess” (8:3). Isaiah had at least two sons. Their symbolic names conveyed warnings to God’s people: (1) Shear-Jashub means “a remnant will return.” (2) Maher-shalal-hash-baz means “the spoil speeds, the prey hastens.” Themes that Isaiah emphasized include the Lord’s sovereignty and holiness.

Isaiah’s prophecies include the coming of the Messiah both as a righteous King (see chapters 9; 11; 32) and as a Suffering Servant. Beginning with chapter 40, Isaiah prophesied concerning the comfort and hope the Lord would give His people (40:1-2). Chapter 42 contains the first of what biblical scholars have identified as Servant songs or poems. These songs consist of Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; and 52:13–53:12. The poems reach their pinnacle in chapters 52–53, where the Servant suffers not for any wrong He has done but rather for the sins of others. The songs find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.

GETTING STARTED



5 MINUTES



DISCUSS: Give your group an opportunity to discuss **Question #1** on page 15 of the Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG): **In your opinion, who's the greatest name in the field of sports, literature, or film?**

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 16): Invite a volunteer to read **The Bible Meets Life** to introduce the session:

Our world is drowning in prideful individuals shouting their names to be heard above the crowd. They strive to stand out in person and online. Boasting about themselves or advertising their favorite brands won't change anyone's life. Are we focusing

our efforts on what needs to be heard? As believers, the point isn't to promote ourselves but to glorify the One worthy of our attention. Isaiah spoke of a "servant" who was to come. That Servant was Jesus, and His mission was to represent God and His name.

LEADER PACK: Display **Pack Item 1, The Greatest Truths of All Time** poster, and give a brief overview of the session titles in this study.

TRANSITION: As you introduce this unit of study, consider showing the study introduction video (see the QR code on the Introduction page) to your group.

GUIDE: Direct attention to **The Point** on page 16 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blank: **There is only one God, and only His NAME deserves glory.**

PRAY: Transition into the study by asking God to help us put away earthly distractions of who or what might be the greatest and focus on Him, the One who truly is the greatest and deserves our attention and glory.



TIP: When helpful, use this "Notes" column to record additional discussion questions, concepts, and activities that connect the study content with your specific group.

STUDY THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES

NOTES

ISAIAH 42:1-4

1 “This is my servant; I strengthen him, this is my chosen one; I delight in him. I have put my Spirit on him; he will bring justice to the nations. **2** He will not cry out or shout or make his voice heard in the streets. **3** He will not break a bruised reed, and he will not put out a smoldering wick; he will faithfully bring justice. **4** He will not grow weak or be discouraged until he has established justice on earth. The coasts and islands will wait for his instruction.”

GIVE BIBLICAL CONTEXT (DDG, PAGE 16): Isaiah is often called the prince of prophets. His tenure spanned four kings and almost sixty years. His book has the most sweeping and complete prophecies of our Messiah, covering everything from how He would enter the world to how He would leave it. Isaiah served during a critical time. God sent Isaiah as a warning for His people to repent before punishment would come. Amid ongoing sin and imminent judgment, Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah who would redeem all that rebellion had created.

READ: Ask someone to read aloud Isaiah 42:1-4 on page 16 of the DDG.

GUIDE: Direct your group’s attention to statement 1 on page 16 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blank: **God brings glory to His name through His CHOSEN ONE.**

GUIDE: Use the commentary on the next page of this Leader Guide to look closer at the role of God’s “chosen one” (v. 1).

DISCUSS Question #2: What hope do these verses give you about the Servant’s mission?

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 16): While Isaiah preached against the weakness apparent in God’s people, he also spoke about the strength that would define God’s “servant” (v. 1) who was to come. Even though the nations had brought chaos, He would bring needed justice. Isaiah didn’t know this servant’s name, but we do! Jesus came to earth to strengthen the weak. He finished what He came to accomplish, and His work and words brought glory to God. Jesus glorified God by finishing the work God gave Him to do (John 17:4).

TRANSITION: In the next verses, we see that God’s name deserves glory for the purpose and relationship He offers.

ALTERNATE QUESTION:

Which part of the description of the Servant is most compelling to you?

ISAIAH 42:1-4 *Commentary*

Connection to The Point: God has empowered His chosen Servant to bring His justice to the earth.

“My servant . . . my chosen one” (v. 1). The term *servant* designates the Messiah in key passages in the latter part of the book of Isaiah (see “Background” on page 18). These Servant songs are fulfilled in Jesus. Many Bible scholars identify Isaiah 61:1-3 as a fifth Servant song although the term “servant” does not appear in the passage. In any case, these verses describe the role of the Messiah. Jesus read this passage as His text for His initial sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21). After reading these words from the scroll of Isaiah, Jesus announced their fulfillment in Him. The word translated *chosen* often has theological overtones and primarily expresses a choosing that has ultimate and eternal significance. It is used of God’s choice of Israel and can also be rendered “elected.”

God brings glory to His name through His chosen Servant. As His crucifixion approached, Jesus prayed for Himself, His disciples, and all believers (John 17:1-26). In John 17:1-5, Jesus prayed that God would glorify Him so that He might glorify God. Jesus did indeed glorify God by completing the work God had given Him to do. Involved in that work is the provision of eternal life.

“Bring justice to the nations” (v. 1). The Servant’s mission involved bringing “justice” not only to Israel or Judah but also to the “nations.” The Hebrew word translated *nations* can also be rendered “Gentiles.” In the Old Testament, the term increasingly came to designate non-believing peoples who were not in a covenant relationship with the Lord. The Hebrew word rendered *justice* can convey a broad range of meanings. It refers to all functions of governing, not only judicial processes but also executive and legislative roles. True justice is primarily an attribute of God. It finds its source in God Himself. God has empowered His “chosen one” to bring His justice to the earth. Jesus the Servant brought justice to first-century society by demonstrating compassion

to all classes of people amongst the Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans. Those who were victims of injustice received benefits, while their exploiters experienced punishment (Isaiah 61:8). Perfect justice will prevail only when Christ returns and establishes His kingdom at the end of this age (see Matthew 6:10).

“A bruised reed . . . a smoldering wick” (v. 3). These terms suggest items that appear weak and useless. The common reed grew in shallow water or wet, salty sand. The plumed flower that formed its head may have constituted the staff handed to Jesus as a form of mockery (Matthew 27:29). Lamp wicks were typically made of twisted flax. Lights symbolically depicted life in abundance in biblical times in contrast to death and darkness. A “smoldering wick” refers to one burning with smoke but without flame. Both the “reed” and “wick” images suggest that although the Servant possessed royal power, He would not use it in a damaging way. The expressions depict the gentle nature of the Servant’s ministry.

“Coasts and islands will wait for his instruction” (v. 4). The same Hebrew term designates both “coasts” and “islands,” functioning as a way of referring to all nations. The entire world will one day heed the Lord’s instruction. The Hebrew term rendered *instruction* means “teaching” or “law.” Motivated by His love, the Lord revealed basic insight into how to have a relationship with Him and with one another. In Scripture, the term encompasses both the moral and ceremonial law. The word’s meaning later expanded to include the first five books of the Old Testament, an inspired record that includes history, regulations, and exhortations.

STUDY THE BIBLE



15 MINUTES

NOTES

ISAIAH 42:5-8

5 This is what God, the LORD, says—who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk on it— **6** “I am the LORD. I have called you for a righteous purpose, and I will hold you by your hand. I will watch over you, and I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations, **7** in order to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those sitting in darkness from the prison house. **8** I am the LORD. That is my name, and I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

READ: Ask someone to read aloud Isaiah 42:5-8 on pages 16–17 of the DDG.

GUIDE: Direct your group’s attention to statement 2 on page 17 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blank: **God’s name deserves glory for the PURPOSE and RELATIONSHIP He offers.**

GUIDE: Use the commentary on the next page of this Leader Guide to examine in more depth the purpose of the Servant.

DISCUSS Question #3: How have God’s purpose and promises been fulfilled in your life?

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 17): When Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, he indicated that the Messiah would be a light to the nations (v. 6). The world is walking in darkness, but the gospel of Jesus turns the light on for all who desire to see (2 Corinthians 4:6). The one mission the Almighty God sent His Only Son to accomplish was to create a way to have a relationship with Him. Because of our sin, He could have left us on our own. Instead, He opened our eyes to see the redemption found in Him. By the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12), we are saved *from* judgment and *for* freedom.

DISCUSS Question #4: How should we respond to God’s great work in our world and in our lives?

ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL): Use the optional activity (on page 27 in this Leader Guide) to give the group an opportunity to discuss the uniqueness of Jesus.

TRANSITION: In the next verses, we see that God’s name deserves glory from all people.

ALTERNATE QUESTION:

In what ways do you see people giving glory to idols instead of God?

ISAIAH 42:5-8 *Commentary*

Connection to The Point: God is the sovereign Creator who alone deserves glory. He works through His Servant to bring us into a covenant relationship.

Who created the heavens (v. 5). The descriptive words in verse 5 emphasize the power and sovereignty behind God's words in verse 6. "Who created the heavens" calls to mind Genesis 1:1. God displayed His power at creation by simply speaking the universe and its contents into being. The Hebrew word translated *created* (*bara'*) is the same verb that appears in Genesis 1:1,21,27. The basic form of the word is limited to divine activity. Only God is identified as the subject who creates. Because the verb never occurs with the mention of any material used in creating and because the main emphasis falls on the newness of what has been created, the clear implication is that of creation out of nothing.

"Called you for a righteous purpose" (v. 6). This phrase describes the role God called His Servant to fulfill. The Hebrew phrase more literally means "called you in righteousness." The term rendered *righteousness* designates "conformity to a moral or ethical standard." In the Old Testament, that standard is God's nature and will. A righteous individual attempts to preserve the well-being of the community by fulfilling God's commands in relating to others. The righteous person serves God. Ultimately, this Servant song was fulfilled in Jesus. His righteous purpose was to bring salvation to all by restoring a right relationship between God and sinful humanity.

"I will appoint you" (v. 6). God appointed His Servant for a specific purpose. The Hebrew verb conveys three broad areas of meaning: (1) to give; (2) to put, set, appoint; and (3) to make, constitute. The same verb occurs in Isaiah 42:1, where the Lord stated that He "put" His Spirit on the Servant. The Lord putting His Spirit on the Servant enabled the Servant to perform His divinely appointed task. In verse 1, the task is described as bringing justice to the nations. In verse 6, the responsibility is identified as being "a covenant for the people and a light to the nations."

"A covenant for the people and a light to the nations" (v. 6). A *covenant* is a treaty, agreement, or contract between nations or individuals. The parties may be equal in power, or one party may be superior. The Lord's promise to make the Servant "a covenant for the people and a light to the nations" informs us that the Servant cannot be simply identified with Israel because the Servant had a mission to Israel. "A covenant for the people" suggests an orderly relationship between the Lord and people already possessing His revelation (the Israelites or Jews). "A light to the nations" implies the widening of the scope of revelation to include all nations, or Gentiles. Thus, this passage apparently depicts the Servant's role in establishing a new covenant, a promise fulfilled in Christ (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 26:27-28).

"To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon" (v. 7). These words call to mind Jesus's reading from the scroll of Isaiah in the Nazareth synagogue at the beginning of His ministry (Luke 4:16-21). The passage included the Servant's role of opening blind eyes and setting prisoners free. While Jesus did heal people of physical blindness, His primary mission was spiritual. Freeing prisoners suggests a conquest of captors and, thus, kingship. Opening blind eyes involves spiritual enlightenment. The Servant's mission included giving both liberty and light.

"I am the LORD. That is my name" (v. 8). The title *LORD*, typically printed in both large and small capital letters, distinguishes the Hebrew word often written in English as *Yahweh* from another Hebrew word that means "Lord." God revealed the significance of this title to Moses at the burning bush when He responded to Moses's request to know God's name with the expression, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). The designation is derived from the Hebrew verb "to be" and denotes God as the self-existent, covenant God who acts independently of outside influences.

STUDY THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES

NOTES

ISAIAH 42:9-12

9 The past events have indeed happened. Now I declare new events; I announce them to you before they occur.” **10** Sing a new song to the LORD; sing his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea with all that fills it, you coasts and islands with your inhabitants. **11** Let the desert and its cities shout, the settlements where Kedar dwells cry aloud. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy; let them cry out from the mountaintops. **12** Let them give glory to the LORD and declare his praise in the coasts and islands.

READ: Ask someone to read aloud Isaiah 42:9-12 on page 17 of the DDG.

GUIDE: Direct your group’s attention to statement 3 on page 17 of the DDG. Invite the group to fill in the blank: **God’s name deserves glory from all PEOPLE.**

RECAP (DDG, PAGE 17): The glorious way we’ve been redeemed should create an urgency to worship Him. Since He is constantly showering us with grace and mesmerizing us with His glory, God deserves a new song sung by people from every corner of the earth. This new song is a reminder that the first time the Servant came as Messiah, son of Joseph, the Lamb to reconcile, but the second time He will come as Messiah, son of David, the Lion of Judah to conquer. And He will take those who have trusted in Him to heaven. One day, “every knee will bow . . . and every tongue will confess” Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

GUIDE: Use the commentary on the next page of this Leader Guide to talk more about what it means to praise and give glory to God.

DISCUSS Question #5: How would you describe the new song God has put in your heart?

DO: Direct the group to the **Engage** activity on page 17 of the DDG (page 27 of this Leader Guide) to give them an opportunity to examine the Scripture passage for what the Father says about the Son, what the Father says about Himself, and why people should glorify the Father.

ALTERNATE QUESTION:

What past and future events stir you to give God glory and praise?

ISAIAH 42:9-12 *Commentary*

Connection to The Point: Because of what God has done, we are to give Him glory and praise.

“Past events . . . new events” (v. 9). “Past events” could refer to previous prophecies in Isaiah that had already been fulfilled. It might also designate all the Old Testament prophecies that had already come to pass, including the exodus from Egypt (Genesis 48:21; 50:24). “New events” probably encompass the deliverance from exile as well as the predicted ministry of the Servant.

New song (v. 10). A song of praise occasioned by the Servant’s work. The reference to a new song implies the existence of an old one. Verse 13 suggests that the old or previous song may have been the one the Israelites sang when the Lord delivered them from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 15:1-18 and compare 15:3 with Isaiah 42:13). Thus, the Servant’s work of which Isaiah prophesied may include a new exodus and a great victory over God’s enemies. It will include deliverance from the bondage of sin.

Praise (vv. 10,12). The new song expresses praise to the Lord. The term rendered *praise* derives from a Hebrew verb written in English as *halal*. This verb forms the basis of the expression *Hallelujah*, meaning “praise Yahweh” or “praise the Lord.” The Hebrew word conveys sincere and deep gratitude in extolling the superior qualities and great acts of God. Because of what God has done for us in Christ, we sing a new song of praise and glory to Him.

The ends of the earth (v. 10). Because of the new events that God was bringing about through His Servant, the prophet called people to praise Him from the ends of the earth. This expression denotes the extremity. Sometimes it is a poetic reference to distant places. The phrase also is a significant recurring theological theme in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 28:49; Psalm 61:2; 65:5; Isaiah 49:6).

Kedar . . . Sela (v. 11). “Kedar” means “mighty,” “black,” or “swarthy.” The man named Kedar is first mentioned in Genesis 25:13. He was a son of

Ishmael and grandson of Abraham. Apparently, a tribe developed from this individual. The Kedarites inhabited the area south of biblical Palestine and east of Egypt. These nomadic peoples raised sheep, goats, and camels, which they sold to Tyre (Ezekiel 27:21). The Kedarites were also well-known for their warriors, especially their archers (Isaiah 21:17).

“Sela” means “rock” (KJV). It was a major fortified city located in Edom. Amaziah, king of Judah in the eighth century BC, captured Sela and renamed it Joktheel (2 Kings 14:7). Sela has traditionally been identified with Petra, Edom’s capital, or with the nearby umm-Bayyara in the Wadi Musa. More recently scholars have placed it at es-Sela, five miles southwest of Tafileh and two and one-half miles northwest of Bozrah. Kedar and Sela together represent isolated desert and mountainous areas.

Glory (v. 12). Comes from a Hebrew verb meaning “to be heavy.” It designates the weighty importance and the shining majesty that accompany the Lord’s presence. The term also can refer to the very reality of His presence. Verse 8 reveals that the Lord will share His glory with no one. There is none with the reputation for greatness that God alone deserves not only because He is Creator and King but also because He is Savior and Deliverer. Nowhere is the reality and splendor of His presence and character seen more than in the person of His Son.

The greatest name. In the ancient world, a name expressed essence, character, and nature. Knowing someone’s name implied a relationship between the two individuals. For God to reveal His name indicates His desire to enter into a personal relationship with humans, whom He created in His image. God’s name deserves glory because of the relationship He offers. By believing in the name or nature and power of Jesus as the Son of God, we experience salvation. There is no other name or person to whom we can turn for salvation (Acts 4:12). Thus God has given Jesus a name above every name.

LIVE IT OUT



5 MINUTES

NOTES

ASK: What actions will you take in response to today's study?

GUIDE: Direct your group to review the three bulleted statements under **Live It Out** on page 18 of the DDG. Call on volunteers to share (1) which of these statements is something they want to pursue further, or (2) ways this study will transform how they praise and give God glory this week.

- **Give God glory.** What's the best way to get the attention off yourself? Place it on the One who deserves it. Spend time in prayer, giving glory to God for who He is and what He's done.
- **Register for a mission trip.** Isaiah mentioned that all the nations need to worship God. That can't happen without someone sharing the gospel with them. Talk with your pastor or small group leader about opportunities to participate in a mission trip.
- **Share your testimony.** If you've experienced the transforming nature of what God can do, share it with someone else. Share how He opened your eyes, strengthened your life, and provided your freedom.

WRAP IT UP

GUIDE: Invite each person to gather with two or three Christ-followers of the same gender this week for a deeper discussion, using **Talk It Out** (page 18 of the DDG) to guide their discussion. Encourage your group to spend time each day in God's Word with the **Daily Study** section (pages 19–24 of the DDG).

NOTE: Encourage the group to participate in the survey by scanning the QR code on page 21 of their DDG (or clicking on the link if they're using an eBook).

RECAP: Read or restate from page 18 of the DDG.

It's one thing to give God glory when we gather as a church and worship together. It's another to give Him glory in our daily activities. If God is the only One deserving of our glory, then we must make such an effort our priority and fight against our tendency to glorify lesser things.

PRAY: Close your group time with prayer, praising God for who He is and what He has done for us through His Servant.



Free additional ideas for your group are available at BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra

ENGAGE

Compile three lists:

1. What the Father says about the Son (vv. 1-4)

2. What the Father says about Himself (vv. 5-8)

3. Why people should glorify the Father (vv. 9-12)

NOTES

BONUS CONTENT

ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL): In advance, gather three tearsheets and three markers.

- Divide the group into three smaller groups, and give each a tearsheet and marker.
- Instruct the small groups to brainstorm a list of ways Jesus is distinct from any other god/idol on earth. Encourage them to pull phrases from Isaiah 42 or other passages of Scripture.
- Bring everyone back together. Invite a representative from each group to share their responses and discuss the uniqueness of Jesus.