

**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE®**

*Leader*

Guide

SENIOR ADULTS  
FALL 2025  
KJV

*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 group in Bible study 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. People may be in your group who have not made that decision yet. 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 are all sinners, and each of us needs to acknowledge that truth before God. That acknowledgment involves repentance, which is 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 John 14:6; Acts 4:12; and Ephesians 2:8-9 when talking about faith in Christ.
3. Confessing your faith in Jesus Christ means both 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 am 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 to 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 for forgiving me. In Jesus's name I pray, Amen."

### **A Special Note about "The Greatest Gift" (p. 48)**

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 Personal Study Guide to connect the session with each member'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.

## Contents

How to Use <i>Bible Studies for Life</i> .....	6
What Preschoolers Taught Me about Leading Adults .....	12
<i>Bible Studies for Life's</i> Discipleship Plan .....	14

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### ***The Greatest Truths of All Time***

SUGGESTED FOR  
THE WEEK OF

		Introduction .....	16
Sept. 7	Session 1	<b>The Greatest Name</b> .....	18
Sept. 14	Session 2	<b>The Greatest Need</b> .....	28
Sept. 21	Session 3	<b>The Greatest Sin</b> .....	38
Sept. 28	Session 4	<b>The Greatest Gift</b> .....	48
Oct. 5	Session 5	<b>The Greatest Command</b> .....	58
Oct. 12	Session 6	<b>The Greatest Return</b> .....	68
	Article	“Hope” in Paul’s Letters: A Word Study .....	78
	Article	An Overlooked Part of Discipleship .....	82

---

### ***How to Handle Life’s Interruptions***

		Introduction .....	84
Oct. 19	Session 1	<b>When God Interrupts Your Life</b> .....	86
	Article	God’s Covenant with Abraham .....	96
Oct. 26	Session 2	<b>When Life Goes Terribly Wrong</b> .....	100
Nov. 2	Session 3	<b>When Your Actions Cause an Interruption</b> .....	110
Nov. 9	Session 4	<b>When Well-Meaning People Interrupt Your Plans</b> .....	120
Nov. 16	Session 5	<b>When a Time of Inactivity Slows You Down</b> .....	130
Nov. 23	Session 6	<b>When Doing God’s Work Is Interrupted</b> .....	140

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### ***Special Focus***

		Introduction .....	150
Nov. 30		<b>From Problems to Praise</b> .....	152
		Coming Next Quarter .....	162

*Don't Miss This*

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## **eBook**

*Bible Studies for Life* is also available as an eBook. You can order a copy at [Lifeway.com/bsflebook](http://Lifeway.com/bsflebook).

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## **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](http://www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra)

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## **Social Media**

Connect with the *Bible Studies for Life* community. It's a place where we can encourage and learn from each other. [Facebook.com/groups/biblestudiesfl](https://Facebook.com/groups/biblestudiesfl).

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## **Podcast**

Get free weekly insights for every session of *Bible Studies for Life: Adults* 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.

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**Send questions/comments by email to:** [BSFL.adults@lifeway.com](mailto:BSFL.adults@lifeway.com) or mail to Content Editor for *Bible Studies for Life: Senior Adults KJV Leader Guide*, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027-7707.

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This Leader Guide is designed for leaders of senior adults ages 70 and up. 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](http://Lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—Scripture quotations marked KJV are from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

## 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 are holding will help you do just that.

This issue includes two studies built on our plan for discipleship and growing deeper in our walk with Christ. The study "The Greatest Truths of All Time" will help us engage with Scripture and we hit upon the central themes that run through all of God's Word. The second study, "How to Handle Life's Interruptions," helps us deepen our obedience to God, because life's interruptions are a good indicator of who is 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 the Discipleship Plan on pages 14–15 to see how these studies will contribute to your walk with Christ.

Enjoy the time you spend reading these studies built on God's Word. And may God richly bless your time with your Bible study group!

**Chris Johnson**

Content Editor, *Bible Studies for Life*



SCAN ME



**Get insights on each week's study.**

Listen to *Bible Studies for Life* Adults through your favorite podcast app.

## ***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.

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## ***Personal Study Guide***

Then read the Personal Study Guide. Its content provides the foundation and direction for the Bible discussion and study by your group.

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## ***Leader Guide***

Follow the simple directives in the group plan. This plan will guide you in engaging your group in discussion around the Bible passage. Read the commentary to help you understand the passage. Share insights from the commentary as needed during the group discussion.

**New Feature: Bonus Content.** QR codes will provide you with additional content to enhance your groups Bible study experience.

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## ***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. Other valuable tools found in the Leader Pack:

- Promotional videos to introduce each study for this quarter
- 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



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

- The Leader Pack also includes access to digital files including:
  - JPEG files of the two main study images that you can use with any presentation software (Promote the study by placing these images into an announcement slideshow or display the images during the sessions to reinforce the study topic.)
  - PDF files of each pack item (Create multiple posters, during your session display the image on a screen using any presentation software, or post these images on social media to promote the study.)

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## ***Additional Ideas***

Additional discussion questions and teaching suggestions for leaders are available online at [www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra](http://www.BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra).

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## ***Prepare Your Group Members***

Encourage your group members to read the Personal Study Guide prior to the group meeting. (Some group members will prefer to read it after the meeting as a way to follow up and reflect.)

Encourage them to join the conversation with others on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/BibleStudiesforLife](https://Facebook.com/BibleStudiesforLife)); our blog ([BibleStudiesforLife.com](http://BibleStudiesforLife.com)); or on Twitter ([@BibleMeetsLife](https://twitter.com/BibleMeetsLife)).

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## ***For Those Who Want to Go Deeper***



The ***Herschel Hobbs Commentary*** is designed specifically for leaders and provides a comprehensive exposition of each session's Scripture passage. Specific attention is called to items in the biblical text that readers would miss without a commentary. This commentary is based on the King James Version but interacts with all major English translations.











# What Preschoolers Taught Me about Leading Adults

*By Dwayne McCrary*

One of the more desired rewards to earn in a preschool class is being the line leader. The first thing children will reveal to their parents at the end of the day is that they got to be the line leader that day. They won the prize by setting an example for the rest to follow. In most cases, the line leader is the one exhibiting the behavior desired by the teacher. In some cases, the child is selected by the teacher, who hopes the child will exhibit the desired behavior. Either way, the line leader sets the standard for that day.

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

## **SETS THE EXAMPLE**

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

When we accepted the role of a group leader, we also accepted the responsibility of representing what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. That willingness to follow Jesus should be one thing that qualifies us to be the 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 their teacher, and adult group leaders follows the expectations defined by the Teacher. Following makes us capable of leading.

## **FOCUSES ON THE TASK**

The preschool line leader focuses on the assigned task, which can include holding on to the rope, walking with purpose, and arriving at a specific destination. Holding the rope may be the biggest challenge for the line leader because children often let go of the rope 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 about some of the larger items. None of these are bad if they do not become the primary focus of the group.

One of the roles we play as the group leader is maintaining a focus on reaching those far from God. This focus includes challenging ourselves to be more intentional in praying for those far from God 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. She encourages other classmates to grab the rope and join her in the journey. She also helps those who get disconnected and lose their grip to reconnect. She makes sure everyone arrives safely.

As adult Bible study group leaders, we get to encourage others to join our group, so they can discover some biblical truths together. We may be called upon to contact others struggling and in danger of becoming stragglers. We want to do our best to give everyone an opportunity to arrive safely.

Everyone arriving safely may mean we add a second “rope” and show others how to be a group leader. We then can 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 is no better way for another person 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 group we lead. We can set an example, help the group remain focused, and bring others with us for the journey. We make our heavenly Father proud when we serve well as a line leader.

**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](http://www.BibleStudiesforLife.com) for a fuller picture of this discipleship plan through 2026.

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

## THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

*How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan:*

**Engage with Scripture.** The six great subjects in this study hit upon the central themes that run through all Scripture.

September 7	Session 1	<b>The Greatest Name</b> (Isaiah 42:1-12)
September 14	Session 2	<b>The Greatest Need</b> (Luke 5:17-26)
September 21	Session 3	<b>The Greatest Sin</b> (Matthew 12:22-32)
September 28	Session 4	<b>The Greatest Gift</b> (Romans 5:6-11,18-21)
October 5	Session 5	<b>The Greatest Command</b> (Mark 12:28-34)
October 12	Session 6	<b>The Greatest Return</b> (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 is in charge of our lives. This study pushes us to obediently trust God rather than our own plans.

October 19	Session 1	<b>When God Interrupts Your Life</b> (Hebrews 11:8-19)
October 26	Session 2	<b>When Life Goes Terribly Wrong</b> (Genesis 39:21-23; 40:5-8; 41:10-14)
November 2	Session 3	<b>When Your Actions Cause an Interruption</b> (Exodus 2:11-22; 3:5-10)
November 9	Session 4	<b>When Well-Meaning People Interrupt Your Plans</b> (Luke 8:40-50,54-56)
November 16	Session 5	<b>When a Time of Inactivity Slows You Down</b> (Acts 1:4-8,12-14; 2:1-4)
November 23	Session 6	<b>When Doing God's Work Is Interrupted</b> (Acts 16:4-15)

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g, and with  
t, and with  
th cymbals,  
th psalteries

<sup>a</sup> ch. 4. 21.  
<sup>2</sup> Ch. 2. 14  
& 3. 14.  
<sup>1</sup> Or, carriage.  
<sup>2</sup> 2 Sa. 22. 1  
& 23. 1.  
<sup>c</sup> To ver. 22,  
Ps. 105. 1-  
115. 11.

David's festival sacrifice, and psalms  
continually before the ark,  
the covenant of God.

7 ¶ Then on that day David  
delivered <sup>b</sup> first this psalm. <sup>c</sup> He  
thank the LORD into the hand  
of A'-sāph and his brethren.  
8 ° Give thanks unto the LORD,  
call upon his name, <sup>d</sup> make  
known his deeds among the  
people.

9 Sing unto him, sing psalms  
unto him, talk ye of all his  
wondrous works.  
10 Glory ye in his holy name:  
let the heart of them rejoice that  
seek the LORD.

11 Seek the LORD and his  
strength, seek his face ever  
thenceforth.

12 Remember his marvellous  
works that he hath done,  
his wonders, and the judgments of  
his mouth:  
13 To be afraid of him, his  
majesty, he hath done  
14 To be afraid of him, his  
majesty, he hath done  
15 To be afraid of him, his  
majesty, he hath done

me to pass, as  
movement of the  
city of David,  
his daughter of  
his daughter of  
his daughter of  
his daughter of  
his daughter of

of thanksgiving.  
23 ° Sing unto the LORD,  
the earth; show forth  
his glory in the firmament  
of heaven.  
24 Declare his glory  
among all nations:  
25 For great is the LORD,  
greatly to be praised:  
26 For all the gods of the  
earth are idols: but the LORD  
made the heavens.  
27 Glory and honour are  
unto him for ever.  
28 Give unto the LORD  
kindreds of the people  
unto the strength of  
his arms.  
29 Give unto the LORD  
glory due unto his  
name: worship him,  
and adore his beauty of  
holiness: let the  
earth fear his  
majesty, let the  
firmament of  
heaven praise  
his glory.



# Introduction

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## The Greatest Truths of All Time

We live in a world obsessed with goats. Not the farm animals, but the acronym that refers to the Greatest Of All Time [GOAT]. We love to determine who is the greatest player in a given sport, or the greatest president, car, invention, and discovery in history. It's both fascinating and trivial, depending on your personal interests.

One GOAT list that's not trivial but worthy of study is what could be called the Greatest Scriptural Truths of All Time. This unit will dive into six of the greatest themes throughout the totality of Scripture. These six greatest truths are a must-know to anyone who calls Christ their Savior or is searching for truth and meaning in this life and the next one. These GOATS of the Christian life are . . .

- The Greatest Name: YAHWEH
- The Greatest Need: Forgiveness
- The Greatest Sin: Not embracing Christ
- The Greatest Gift: Salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The Greatest Command: Love God and Others
- The Greatest Comeback: The Day of the Lord

These themes are not trivial, but are eternal, with the power to transform a person from death to life, darkness to light, and night to day. Join us as we study God's Word together.



### Study Introduction:

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

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#### AUTHOR

**JEFF SHULTZ**

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#### COMMENTARY WRITER

**JANICE K. MEIER**

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# The Greatest Name



## THE POINT

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

## LIFE CONNECTION

People love to debate who is the G.O.A.T.—the Greatest of All Time—in this field or that field. Usually, opinions will 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 is only one God and He alone is truly glorious and praiseworthy.

## THE PASSAGE

Isaiah 42:1-12

## THE SETTING

Isaiah's prophecies include the coming of the Messiah both as a righteous King (see chaps. 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

**GUIDE:** Invite the group to turn to **page 3** of the **Personal Study Guide (PSG)** and review the titles of the six sessions of this study titled, *The Greatest Truths of All Time*.

**LEADER PACK:** Display **Item 1: The Greatest Truths of All Time** poster to overview the study and reference session titles throughout the study.

**DISCUSS:** Draw attention to the question on **PSG, page 15** and ask **Question 1: In your opinion, who is the greatest of all time in the field of sports, books, or movies?**

**GUIDE:** Refer the group to **The Bible Meets Life (PSG, p. 15)** and relate the author's feelings about his first and last names. Emphasize that names are important.

**SAY:** It's certainly legitimate to like our names and strive to live in ways that bring honor and respect to our names. But the truth is there is One whose name is the greatest and most deserving of honor and respect.

**GUIDE:** Introduce **The Point on PSG, page 15: There is only one God and only His name deserves glory.**

**OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION:** Refer to **Life Connection on page 18** for an alternate introduction to the study.

**PRAY:** Begin the session with prayer. Ask God to give the group an awe for His great name and a desire to glorify God's name.

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



## NOTES



# STUDY THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES

NOTES

## *Isaiah 42:1-4*

**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.

**SUMMARIZE:** Before reading the verses, refer to **The Setting on page 18** to establish the context of the biblical passage.

**READ:** Enlist a volunteer to read Isaiah 42:1-4.

**SAY:** Share the connection to The Point: God has empowered His chosen Servant to bring His justice to the earth.

**GUIDE:** Refer the group to **PSG, page 17**. Use the author's comments to examine the justice the Servant will bring to earth with humility:

The word for judgment, *mishpat*, means "a fair judgment" or "to set things right." The Servant is to set things right between God and all His rebellious children.

With gentleness and humility, He will carry it to those who are broken and bruised. He will set things right for those who have little to live for. Bruised reeds and smoking flax were thrown out as useless, even though they could be repaired. This justice will bring life and hope to those who have little left.

**SUMMARIZE:** Refer to the **Bible Commentary** to further elaborate on the Servant's mission and character. Highlight:

*Bring for judgment to the Gentiles (v. 1).*

*A bruised reed/smoking flax (v. 3).*

**DISCUSS:** **Question 2:** How does verse 3 encourage you in your walk with God?

**TRANSITION:** There are times we may be discouraged by the injustice we see on this earth. But the Servant will not be disheartened because He knows God's Person, purpose, and promises.

**Alternate Question:**  
What hope do these verses give you about the Servant's mission?

## Isaiah 42:1-4 Commentary

**My servant/my mine elect** (v. 1). The term *servant* designates the Messiah in key passages in the latter part of the book of Isaiah (see “The Setting” on p. 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 *elect* 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 “chosen.”

God brings glory to His name through His *elect* Servant. As His crucifixion approached, Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples, and for 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 that God had given Him to do. Involved in that work is the provision of eternal life.

**Bring for judgment to the Gentiles** (v. 1). The Servant’s mission involved *bring forth judgment* not only to Israel or Judah but also to the *Gentiles*. The Hebrew word translated *Gentiles* can also be rendered “*nations*.” In the Old Testament the term increasingly comes to designate non-believing peoples who were not in covenant relationship with the Lord. The Hebrew word rendered *judgment* 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 *judgment* is primarily an attribute of God. It finds its source in God Himself. God has empowered His *elect* Servant to bring His *judgment* to the earth. True *judgment* is found in

Scripture. Jesus the Servant brought *judgment* to first-century society by demonstrating compassion to all classes of people among the Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans. Those who were victims of injustice received benefits, while their exploiters experienced punishment (Isa. 61:8). Perfect justice will prevail only when Christ returns and establishes His kingdom at the end of this age (see Matt. 6:10).

**A bruised reed/smoking flax** (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 (Matt. 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 *smoking flax* refers to one burning with smoke but without flame. Both *reed* and *flax* 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.

**The isles shall wait for his law** (v. 4). The same Hebrew term designates both *coasts* and *islands*. The phrase *isles* refers to distant nations and thus functions as a way of referring to all nations. The entire world will one day heed the Lord’s *law*. The Hebrew term rendered *law* is often written in English as *Torah*. The word basically means “teaching” or “law.” Motivated by His love, the Lord revealed to human beings basic insight into how to have a relationship with Him and with one another. In the Scriptures, the term encompasses both the moral law and the 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** Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: **6** I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; **7** To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. **8** I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

**READ:** Enlist a volunteer to read Isaiah 42:5-8.

**SAY:** Share the connection to The Point: God is the sovereign Creator who alone deserves glory. He has purposed to work through His Servant to bring us into a covenant relationship.

**SUMMARIZE:** Refer to the **Bible Commentary** to describe God's Person and His credentials. Highlight:

*He that created the heavens (v. 5).*

*I am the LORD: that is my name (v. 8).*

**RECAP:** Refer the group to **PSG, pages 18–19** and recap the purpose to which God called the Servant:

It was a call to transform the rebellious into the righteous.

A covenant is a sacred, formal agreement between two parties that establishes a bonding relationship, many times delivering peace between warring parties. The Lord didn't tell the Servant He would bring, deliver, or administer a covenant. Instead, He would be the covenant for all people. He would also be a light to the nations.

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

**SAY:** Jesus came to be "a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness" (vv. 6-7).

**DISCUSS: Question 4: Which of the metaphors about God's work in the world have you seen play out in others' lives?**

**TRANSITION:** Because God alone can fulfill the justice and salvation He has promised through the Servant, God alone deserves glory. His name will be acknowledged as greatest by all people of all nations.

### **Alternate Question:**

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

## Isaiah 42:5-8 Commentary

**He that created the heavens** (v. 5). The descriptive words in verse 5 emphasize the power and sovereignty behind God’s words recorded in verse 6. The expression *he that created the heavens* calls to mind the first words of Scripture (Gen. 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.

**Have called thee in righteousness** (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* basically designates “conformity to a moral or ethical standard.”<sup>1</sup> In the Old Testament that standard is God’s nature and will. A righteous individual is one who attempts to preserve the well-being of the community by fulfilling God’s commands in relating to others. The righteous person is one who serves God (Mal. 3:18). 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.

**Give thee** (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 had “put” His Spirit on the Servant. This enabled the Servant to perform His divinely-appointed task. In verse 6, the responsibility is identified as being “a covenant for the people, for a light of the Gentiles.”

**A covenant for the people, for a light of the Gentiles** (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 action of making a covenant in the Old Testament sometimes employs the idiom “to cut a covenant.” The statement “the LORD made a covenant with Abram” (Gen. 15:18) more literally reads “the LORD cut a covenant with Abram.” In the covenant-making process the Lord required Abram to bring certain animals, cut them in half, and place the halves opposite one another. The parties making the covenant then walked between the pieces, signifying what would happen to them if they failed to uphold their part of the agreement. A smoking fire pot and a flaming torch representing the Lord passed between the divided animals in Genesis 15, thus signifying that the Lord’s covenant with Abram was an unconditional covenant that He would fulfill.

The Lord’s covenant with Abram included not only the promise to make his descendants a great nation (Israel) but also the pledge to bless all peoples through the patriarch (Gen. 12:1-3). The Lord’s promise to make the Servant “*a covenant for the people, for a light of the Gentiles*” informs us that the Servant cannot be simply identified with Israel because the Servant has a mission to Israel. The expression *a covenant of the people* suggests an orderly relationship between the Lord and people already possessing His revelation (the Israelites or Jews). The phrase *for a light of the Gentiles* 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 (Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 26:27-28).

**To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison** (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). While Jesus did heal people of physical blindness, His primary mission was spiritual. The Servant’s mission included giving both liberty and light.

# STUDY THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES

NOTES

## *Isaiah 42:9-12*

**9** Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. **10** Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. **11** Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. **12** Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.

**READ:** Enlist a volunteer to read Isaiah 42:9-12.

**SAY:** Share the connection to The Point: Because of what God has done, we are to give Him glory and praise.

**GUIDE:** Refer the group to **PSG, pages 20–22**. Use the author’s comments to examine why we are to sing a new song:

Why a new song? For there to be a new song, there had to be an old song. Just as His people sang His praises for the things that have already taken place, there will be new songs of praise lifted for the new things that are about to spring up. Once the Lord brings justice to the nations through the Servant, there will be yet another new reason to sing praise songs to the one and only true God.

The new song is a foreshadowing of the day when all people from every tribe behold the Lord as the one true God. Paul wrote: “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).

**SUMMARIZE:** Refer to the **Bible Commentary** to emphasize who will sing this new song and what that song will be about. Highlight:

*The end of the earth (v. 10).*

*Kedar . . . the rock (v. 11).*

*Glory . . . praise (v. 12).*

**DISCUSS:** Question 5: How has God’s faithfulness prompted a new song in your heart?

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** See **Bonus Content** on page 27.

**ENGAGE:** Invite the group to complete the **Engage Activity (PSG, p. 22)**.

**Alternate Question:**  
What past and future events stir you to give God glory and praise?



## Isaiah 42:9-12 Commentary

**Former things . . . new things** (v. 9). The expression *former things* could refer to previous prophecies in Isaiah that had already been fulfilled. The *new things* the Lord announced probably encompass the deliverance from exile as well as the predicted ministry of the Servant.

**New song** (v. 10). The *new song* is 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 (Ex. 15:1-18 and compare 15:3 with Isa. 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. 8,10,12). The new song expresses praise to the Lord. The term rendered *praise* derives from a Hebrew verb that comes from a verb written in English as *halal*. That verb forms the basis of the expression *Hallelujah*, meaning "praise Yahweh" or "praise the Lord." The Hebrew word conveys sincere gratitude in extolling the superior qualities and great acts of God. Isaiah 42:10 refers to the messianic age in which God's people would sing a new song (Rev. 5:9-10). Because of what God has done for us in Christ, we sing a new song of praise and glory to Him.

**The end 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 end 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. In Isaiah 49:6 the Lord used the expression in announcing that His Servant would provide salvation for both Jews and Gentiles.

**Kedar . . . the rock** (v. 11). The designation *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 were nomadic people (Ezek. 27:21) and were well-known for their warriors, especially their archers (Isa. 21:17).

The term *rock* is also translated as "Sela" (CSB, NIV). It was a major fortified city located in Edom (2 Kings 14:7) identified with Petra, Edom's capital, or with the nearby Umm al-Biyara in the Wadi Musa. The two sites of Kedar and the rock together represent isolated desert and mountainous areas.

**Glory** (vv. 8,12). The term translated *glory* 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 else. 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 (Isa. 4:2; John 1:14).

**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 personal relationship with human beings, 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. And one day every tongue will confess that Jesus's name is the greatest name (Phil. 2:9-11).



5 MINUTES

NOTES

## LIVE IT OUT

**REVIEW:** *Live It Out (PSG, p. 23)*. Encourage the group to follow through this week with at least one of the applications.

There is only one God and only His name deserves glory. Choose one of the following applications.

- **Memorize.** *Commit Philippians 2:9-11 to memory. Reflect on those words and ask God to show how you can live under His lordship each day.*
- **Write.** *The Bible speaks of a new song. Write a hymn, poem, or spoken word poem thanking the Lord for His faithfulness in the past and His promises for the future. Share this work with others or use it in your personal worship to glorify God.*
- **Encourage.** *There are many bruised people in our communities. Someone you know is going through a hard time. Send this person a note of encouragement with a promise from God of His faithfulness.*

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## Wrap It Up

**GUIDE:** Emphasize **The Point: There is only one God and only His name deserves glory.**

**GUIDE:** Remind the group that because the Servant, Jesus, fulfilled His mission to represent God and His name accurately, all who follow Christ can sing a new song of praise to God and give Him the glory He alone deserves.

**PRAY:** God, Your name is greatest, and You will not give Your glory to another. And so we sing a new song of praise to You. We sing for joy and give glory to You alone. Amen.



SCAN ME



**EXTRA!**

Free additional ideas for your group are available at [BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra](http://BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra)

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## Engage

Glory means “heavy in weight,” “give weight to.” To which of the following matters do you give the most weight in your life?

- Your health
- Your family
- Your living situation
- Your problems
- Your comfort
- God

Based on your responses, what receives glory in your life?

How can you give more weight to God than any of these other heavy matters?

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## Bonus Content (Optional)

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** Ask what Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion all have in common. State these are the three major credit bureaus that collect data on our spending and borrowing habits and compile a credit report that rates how dependable we are to pay back loans. Ask if they know what a good credit score is. A credit score of eight hundred or above is what consumers should hope to obtain if they want to be granted loans at the lowest interest rate. People can raise their credit score by paying on time, paying monthly bills in full, and not opening too many accounts at once. Some may use a credit repair company to help raise their score. The Lord God does not have to raise His credit score to become more credit-worthy or to increase His reliability to keep His promises. His credentials are impeccable—He is Creator, Sustainer, Covenant Maker, and Keeper. Followers of Jesus don’t need a credit repair company because the promised Servant, Jesus, cancels our massive sin debt and puts us in right relationship with this glorious, holy God.

1. Lifeway Adults, Explore the Bible: Adult Personal Study Guide - CSB, Spring 2024. Lifeway Press, 2024, retrieved from <https://read.lifeway.com>.