

APPLICATION

- Do you believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise of a light for the world? How should this truth affect your life every day?
- What do you think stops you from bearing witness to the light of the world, and what are you willing to do about it today?
- Who among your family and friends need to see and experience God's light and salvation? Commit to share your testimony and pray with them this week.

PRAYER

- Thank God that Jesus is the promised light that expels darkness in our world. Ask for His kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.
- Ask God for the grace and boldness to help you overcome the obstacles you encounter in being a light to others.
- Pray for more opportunities to share His word and be His light. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the right words and opportunities to preach the gospel.

LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS

The Servant Who Brings Light to the World

WEEK 1

WARM-UP

- What's one thing you have not been able to do in the last year? Why do you miss doing this?
- Tell us about one good decision you have made recently. What effect has it made on you?
- Among your family and friends, who helps you make good decisions? Recall an instance explaining this.

WORD *"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* **ISAIAH 49:6**

(Read also **ISAIAH 49:7-9**.)

The world we live in is troubled and broken. This darkness is caused by sin. We can see sickness, hatred, and disaster everywhere. However, this is not God's original design and not how the story of redemption will end. God has a plan to restore His creation and bring light to the darkness. Today, let's look at how God continues to fulfill this promise in our world.

1 | God promised a light for the nations.

⁵And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

ISAIAH 49:5-6

To combat the darkness in this world, God promised a *light for the nations*. He declared this promise through the prophet Isaiah. At that time, God’s people—the Jews—were waiting to be restored and rescued from exile. God’s promise was more than just their restoration. He declared that there would be a servant who would be a *light for the nations*. God’s salvation is not just for the Jews in the Old Testament, but for all nations. Until where was God’s salvation supposed to reach?

2 | Salvation is offered to all peoples, not just to the Jews.

. . . ⁶he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” ⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

ISAIAH 49:6-7

In order to redeem humanity from darkness, God planned to send a servant *deeply despised and abhorred*. We find out many centuries after this prophecy was given that this was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. He is *the light of the world* (John 8:12). Despite being without sin Himself, He suffered a criminal’s death to pay off the debt of our sin. On the third day, He was raised to life. As a result, people from all nations—not just the Jews—who follow and believe in Him will no longer *walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*. How does knowing that God’s salvation is offered to all affect your perspective of the world?

3 | The people of God are to bear witness of the light to the world.

⁸Thus says the LORD: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, ⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’” **ISAIAH 49:8-9**

Without God’s promised light and salvation, we would live in darkness. However, having encountered His servant who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ, we are to bear witness to this light. We can see His light shine in a dark world. When we preach the gospel, people will come to the saving knowledge of Christ (Acts 13:46-49). With everything we are going through at this time, why do you think it is so important to bear witness to the light of the world?
