

## Introduction

This lesson focuses on the four “Servant-songs” in Isaiah—42:1–9, 49:1–13, 50:4–11, and 21:13–53:12. The literal fulfillment of Isaiah’s early prophecies provides assurance of the literal fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah’s second coming. Together, these songs give evidence that God is the author of Scripture and Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies.

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verse is Isaiah 40:23...  
“He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.”

## Day One

Read *Isaiah 42:1–25*; ***The Chosen Servant***

**NOTE:** Isaiah 42:1–9 is the first Servant-song and refers to the Messiah’s gentleness and universal mission.

1. In Isaiah 42:1, what are the unique ways in which God blesses this Servant?
  - a. According to verse 2, what is the characteristic nature of this servant?
2. In verses 1, 3, and 4, what specific role of the servant is emphasized?
  - a. From Isaiah 11:3–9, describe the all-encompassing work of the Servant.
3. In Matthew 12:18–21 (where Isaiah 42:1–3 is quoted), how was the nature of Jesus’ first coming revealed, as well as His return?
4. According to Isaiah 42:6–7, what will the work of the Servant accomplish, as God gives Him as a covenant?
  - a. According to 42:10–12, how will the world respond?
5. Isaiah 42:18–25 described the nation of Israel; what task that involved other nations had God given Israel?
  - a. What is the relationship between their failure and the task of the chosen Servant?
6. What aspects of the Servant’s life and ministry are highlighted in this servant song?
  - a. In what ways can you walk as he walked, and what practical steps can you take to implement that in your life? Be specific.

## Day Two

Read *Isaiah 49:1–13*; ***The Earthly Ministry of the Servant***

**NOTE:** Isaiah 49:1–13 is the second of the four Servant-songs and refers to the Servant’s mission and spiritual success.

1. After several chapters focusing on the servant as the nation of Israel, Isaiah now turns his attention back to the chosen Servant. In 49:1–2, when was the Servant called, and what was He called to be?

2. In 49:3, the chosen Servant is referred to as “Israel.” Why do you think Jesus is sometimes referred to as “the true Israel?”
3. In verse 4, the humanity of the chosen Servant is emphasized. From man’s perspective, how might Christ’s ministry have appeared as a failure?
4. In verses 5–7, what is the extent of the Servant’s work, and how will people respond to Him?
  - a. How does God esteem the ministry of the Servant?
5. What comfort can you take from this exchange between the chosen Servant (whom we are to imitate) and God, especially when, from a human perspective, things seemingly fail?
6. In verse 13, what is the ultimate response to the Servant’s work? How should this affect your worship of Christ today?

## Day Three

Read Isaiah 50:4–11; *The Cost of Obedience*

**NOTE:** Verses 4–11 comprise the third of the four Servant-songs and is about the Messiah’s perfection through obedience and sufferings.

1. In Isaiah 50:4–5, the third servant song begins with preparation of the Servant for His future ministry. What task has the Servant been given by the Lord, and how was He equipped for this?
  - a. How does the example of the Servant affect your thinking on the importance of daily time in the Word?
2. In verses 6–7, what is the nature of the suffering to come, and what is the Servant’s response? (See also Mark 10:33–34.)
  - a. In verse 7, where does He find his strength to endure? How can this be an example to Israel and to believers today?
3. In verses 10–11, what contrast does Isaiah present?
  - a. In verse 11, what do you think Isaiah means when he writes of those who “walk in the light of your fire”?
  - b. Take time to consider someone you know who walks according to their own works, and ask the Lord for the opportunity and boldness to share the great news of the suffering servant with them.

## Day Four

Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12; *The Sin-Bearing Work of the Servant*

**NOTE:** This text is the last of the four Servant-songs and refers to the Messiah Jesus. It is frequently quoted in the New Testament in texts such as Matthew 8:17, Luke 22:37, John 12:38, Romans 10:16, and 1 Peter 2:21-25.

1. Why would the descriptions of the Servant in 52:13 and 15 (and 6:1) have seemed so incongruous with 52:14 to those receiving the prophecy?
2. In Isaiah 53:2–3, what details are given about the person of the Servant and His ministry?
3. Isaiah 53:4–6 form the heart of this passage and are the key to God’s redemptive plan. From verse 5, what did the Servant do, and why? What has happened to us as a consequence?
  - a. How does a careful meditation on verse 6 affect how you approach God in prayer or worship today?
4. Verses 7–9 give several details as to how the servant would accomplish his task. Pick three of these, and cite Scripture references that reveal how these details were fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.
5. Verses 10–12 form the end of this servant song. How would you describe the conclusion?
  - a. Use the words in Isaiah 53:10–12 to direct your thoughts and write a personal prayer of thanksgiving for what was accomplished for you by the Suffering Servant.

## Day Five

Read Isaiah 54 and 55; *The Servant’s Accomplishments*

**NOTE:** Chapters 54 and 55 conclude the Servant Song section of Isaiah. Chapter 54 is directed to God’s covenant people, Israel, while chapter 55 speaks of the LORD’s compassion on the gentile nations.

1. From 54:1–3, how has the Servant’s work accomplished the promises given to Abraham?
2. In verses 4–10, what characteristic of the LORD is most striking to you, and why? Where do you see His covenant promises to Israel fulfilled?
3. In verses 11–17, how is the future described for the nation of Israel?
  - a. How would this have given hope to Israel then, and how does it give hope to believers today?
4. Chapter 55 opens with an invitation. To whom is this invitation extended, and why is this so significant?
5. According to verses 2–3 and 6–9, what is required of any and all who would seek salvation?



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6. How does Isaiah 55:3–5 relate to the everlasting covenant the LORD made with David?
7. In verses 8–11, what encouragement do you find as you seek to share the gospel with others?
8. How has this study of the Servant songs affected your understanding of the Suffering Servant King? Share with your group one way in which you have been encouraged through the study of God's Word this week.

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