

Summer Quarter: June • July • August 2023

BEGINNERS' STORIES

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Beginners' Stories (USPS 048-480), Vol. 60, No. 3, June, July, August 2023, is published quarterly for \$15.56 per year by AMEC Sunday School Union, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville 37212. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville, Tennessee.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BEGINNERS' STORIES, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville 37212.

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Beginners' Stories, Volume 60, No. 3, June, July, August 2023 — Lessons based on the International Sunday School Lessons, The International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching. Copyright © 2021 by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

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Entered as Periodicals Postage Paid Matter, March 20, 1942, at the Post Office at Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Rev. Roderick D. Belin, President and Publisher

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Letter to the Parents

Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with me as we learn about God's Word together. Your child is going to enjoy learning the lessons for this quarter.

Unit I, "God's Messengers Describe God's Power," is a five-week study of the reign of God as depicted in the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zephaniah, and Zechariah. Taken as a whole, what do these prophetic texts teach us about the kind of rule that God exerts over the earth's inhabitants? The first two lessons advance the theme of God's powerful and peaceful reign. Lesson 3 introduces the concept of God's Servant-King, the promised Messiah. Lessons 4 and 5 explore the concept of God's appointed King.

Unit II, "Jesus Describes God's Rule," presents four lessons on Jesus' kingdom teachings as found in the gospel of Matthew—with the first one recounting how Jesus' powerful acts of deliverance are evidence of God's kingdom in our midst. The next three lessons explore Jesus' parables of the kingdom in Matthew 13: the urgency of understanding its message; the enemy who undermines kingdom work; the unseen growth of the kingdom; the precious joy of finding the kingdom; and the universal judgment at the end of the age.

Unit III, "God's Authority Will Never End," presents four lessons from the New Testament epistles about the implications of life under God's authority. The first one explores the fruit of life according to the law of love. The next lesson contrasts a life of religious rule following with the righteousness, peace, and joy to be found in God's economy. The third one reminds us that the power of God is at work in us. The unit concludes with praise for Christ, the exalted ruler.

Your Child's Teacher

Lesson

1

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-12

"Know My Name"



Key Verse

The LORD will go before you, the
God of Israel will be your rear
guard. (Isaiah 52:12b)



"Know My Name"

(Isaiah 52:7-12)

Isaiah 52:7 states that the people who share the Good News have beautiful feet! This means they were doing a beautiful thing in taking the message to others. Their message is about peace and being rescued from the consequence of wrong choices. They say loudly that God rules! The guards also lift up their voices. They shout for joy that the Lord God is returning!

God gives comfort to His people. He shows His strength and saving power to the whole world. Everyone will know God's name.

The people were told to leave quickly, but be careful what they touched. They would not have to run. The Lord promised to go ahead of them. The God of Israel would protect them from behind.

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today's lesson, your child heard the prophet Isaiah's prophecy concerning the deliverance of the Israelites from captivity. The Lord promised to go before His people; the God of Israel would protect them from behind. Everyone in the world will see God's power and know His name. Read the Key Verse to your child. Take your child on a walk and assure your child of God's presence everywhere. Thank God for His protection.

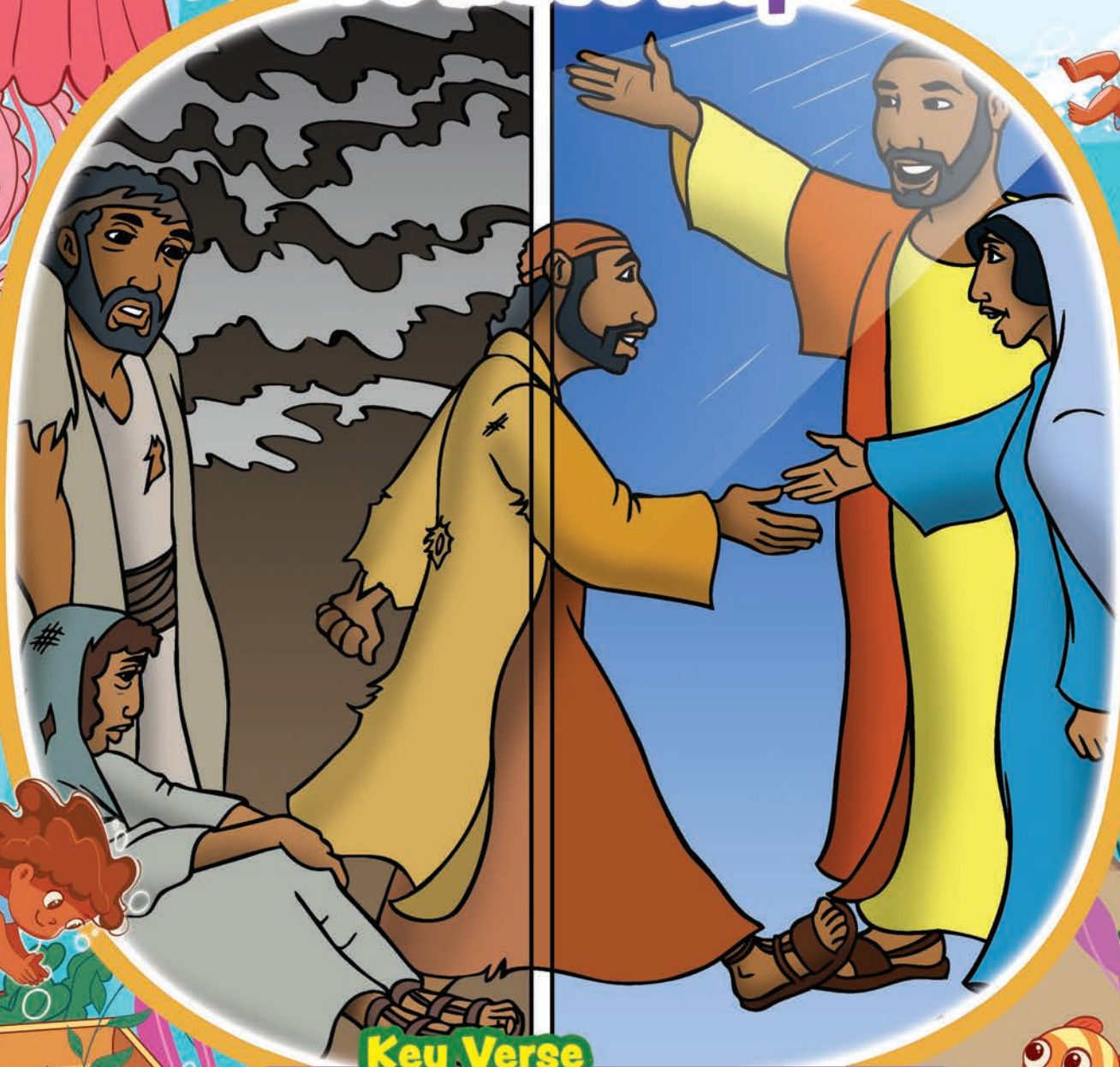
Faith Block

God is with me!

Your Child's Teacher



We Have Hope



Key Verse

[God said,] "Be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create." (Isaiah 65:18a)



We Have Hope

(Isaiah 65:17-25)

Rejoice forever! We have hope! God promises to create a new heaven and a new earth! They will be so great that the old heaven and earth will be forgotten. Jerusalem will be a happy place. Jerusalem and the people will make God rejoice!

Families will be blessed. Babies will grow up happy. Adults will live long lives. People will live in their homes. They will eat from their gardens. God will hear their prayers. No one will be hurt. There will be no more crying. Even the wolves and lions will be peaceful with the lambs. God has spoken!

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today's lesson, your child heard the prophet Isaiah's prophecy of the re-creation of heaven and earth. There will be no crying, hurt, or violence in this new heaven and earth. People and their children will be blessed. And the people will be a source of joy for God. Review today's Bible story with your child. Then have your child draw a picture of the new heaven and earth.

Your Child's Teacher

Faith Block

I have hope!



One for All



Key Verse

[God said,] "'My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd.'" (Ezekiel 37:24a)



One for All

(Ezekiel 37:21-28)

Ezekiel received the Lord God's message. The Lord promised to return all the Israelite people to their own land. But they would not be divided into two nations. They would be one nation. They would have one king (King David). The Lord would save them. And the Lord would be their God. They would follow God's laws.

The Lord would make an everlasting promise of peace with them. Their families would get larger. God's presence would be with them. And they would be God's people. The world would know that the Lord had chosen the Israelite people for Himself.

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today's lesson, your child heard the prophet Ezekiel's prophecy concerning the deliverance and reunion of the people of Israel and Judah. The Lord would return them to their home, but they would become one nation ruled under one king (King David). The Lord also would make a covenant of peace with them. Review the lesson with your child, emphasizing the unity of God's people. Make plans with your child to spend a family day together.

Your Child's Teacher

Faith Block

We are one!

