

# Welcome to SPC Kids Corner!

Sunday, December 10, 2023

## COMFORT MY PEOPLE

Isaiah 40:1-11

**Key Verse:**

“Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”  
Isaiah 40:5

**The Point:**

We can trust that God will bring us home to God’s kingdom.

**Making Connections:**

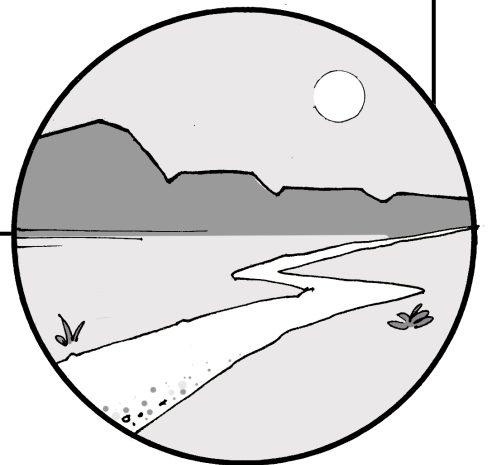
Promises Made, Promises Kept

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Exile and Return

**Spiritual Practice:**

Worship



# BACKGROUND

## Making Connections

Last week, we heard the story of Josiah finding a scroll. This week brings some of the words of the prophet Isaiah. The prophecy at the center of today's lesson brought hope and comfort to God's people as God keeps promises made to God's people, even in the midst of difficult times.

## Story Summary:

### *Comfort My People*

The text in Isaiah 40:1-11 is familiar to many people. The prophecy from Isaiah reminds us that God is present and is coming. Sometimes this passage is used in the prophecies that look to the coming of the Messiah. (Several verses of this passage are featured in Handel's *Messiah*.)

Today's text enters the biblical narrative at the time when God's people were in exile away from their homeland. It is difficult to leave home for a place that you barely know; imagine how much more difficult it was for God's people to be forcibly taken from their homes by their enemies. Isaiah's prophecy brought comfort to God's people by reminding them that God was near and would be coming to rescue them. The words of this text remind God's people that God will always rule and the freedom given to them when leaving Egypt will always be there. Furthermore, the text reminds God's people that God's word is forever—it will never desert them when things change.

## The Point

**We can trust that God will bring us home to God's kingdom.** Just like the people of Judah, we also face many trials and tribulations in our lives. There are many events that make us feel sad, lost, or separated—both from God and from other people. However, Isaiah's prophecy remains true for us, too. Although things may change, and times may get tough, God's word is forever true and God will always be present in our lives. We can take comfort in the fact that our God will triumph and rule forever.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### *Exile and Return*

Today's story can be placed in the historical narrative during the time of the Babylonian exile. This exile, sometimes known as the Babylonian captivity, lasted from approximately 597 BCE until about 538 BCE. During this time, many of God's people in Judah were banished from their homeland and taken to Babylon. In Scripture, the texts in several of the prophetic books (for example, Isaiah and Jeremiah) brought words of hope to those who were away from their home.

## Spiritual Practice: Worship

We need to hear God's words of comfort and hope. As we come together in worship, many of us are dealing with difficult and painful times. We need to be reminded that God's promises to be with us, and that other people are with us as well. In turn, we go out from worship to help others through their challenging times.





# THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Discover the hidden words.

L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	T	M	B	G	I	E	G
K	W	N	M	E	B	R	E	F	E	U	I	N	V	O
F	U	P	M	X	V	L	J	G	I	H	E	L	S	D
C	R	E	Q	L	Q	S	H	P	A	M	P	V	S	J
D	A	Y	J	O	F	N	G	A	I	S	X	O	S	L
R	Y	Q	B	V	Q	A	S	E	I	C	S	C	R	Z
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A	K	J	R	W	V	N	J	E	R	A	S	D	M	F
M	W	R	M	P	M	O	P	J	J	G	X	I	K	H
P	X	P	N	W	O	L	U	Z	Q	B	A	C	X	P
Q	C	K	X	L	I	Y	I	Q	C	K	B	C	L	P
M	R	P	Q	S	T	B	A	P	N	P	I	C	Z	U
T	D	R	P	G	Z	A	Y	J	E	U	I	N	K	Z
H	O	P	E	Z	A	B	L	P	X	D	V	P	G	A
T	N	E	M	H	S	I	N	U	P	X	L	J	A	C

## Word Bank

PROPHET  
DREAM  
BABYLONIANS  
MESSAGE

PUNISHMENT  
KING  
LAUGHING  
PRAY

GOD  
ISAIAH  
HOPE  
ENEMIES



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# THE EXILE AND RETURN

*Explore the history of the exile.*

## **The Babylonian Exile**

Once, a long, long time ago, the people of God took a journey.

It wasn't a normal journey, though. This journey took God's people away from their homes and to a new land. They left their homes in Judah and were exiled, or sent away, to Babylon.

King Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. He entered Jerusalem (in Judah) and took the Judean king captive. He destroyed the temple and then began to destroy the city. Nothing was left after King Nebuchadnezzar took control.

The king of Babylon didn't just destroy Jerusalem. Instead, the Babylonians began to rule over the people of Judah and many of them were sent into captivity in Babylon. This was not an easy time for God's people! They were forced away from their homes by strangers, by people who forced them to change their lives.

The exile to Babylon lasted for over fifty years! When the exile ended and the people of Judah could return home, many did. Some stayed in Babylon and created their own new communities.

The Babylonian exile lasted for a long time. However, the prophets brought words of hope to God's people during this time, and eventually the time of captivity was over and people could return to their homeland. The journey was difficult, but the people of Judah survived!

THOSE who HOPE in the

LORD will

renew their  
strength.

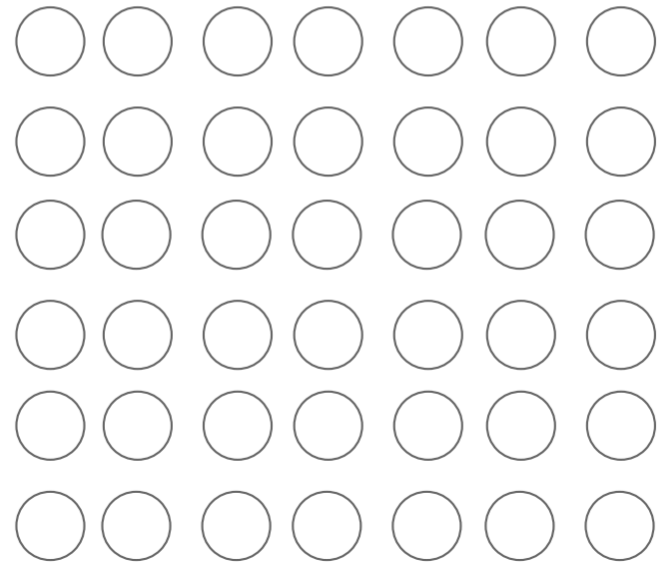
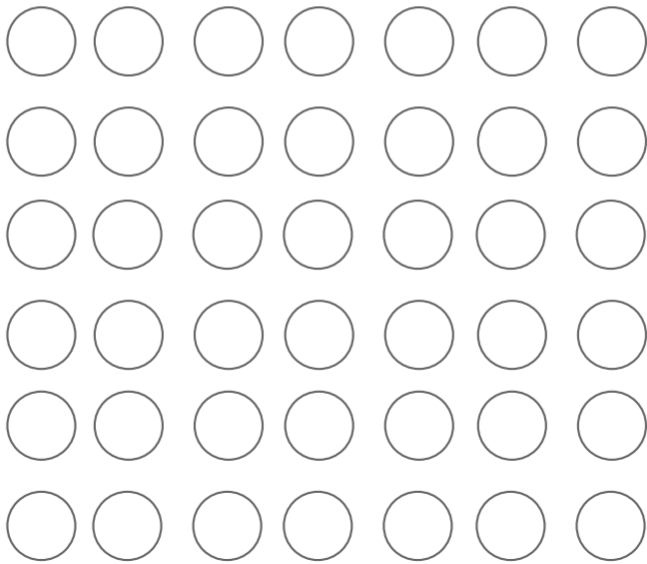


THEY will

SOAR

on wings

like EAGLES.

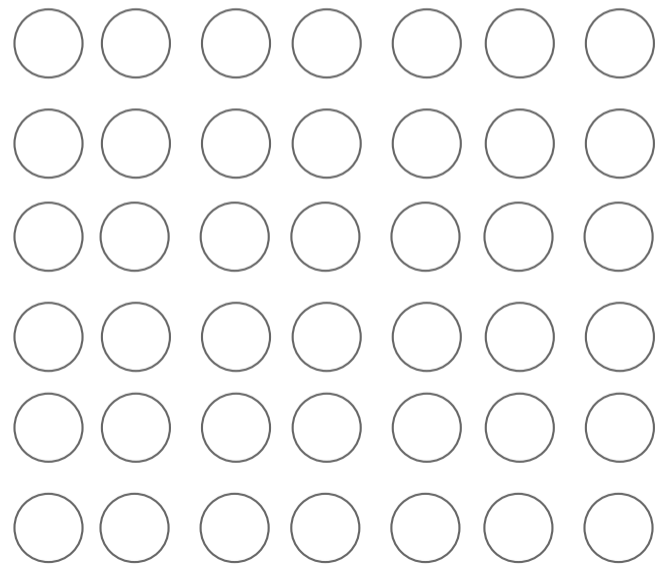
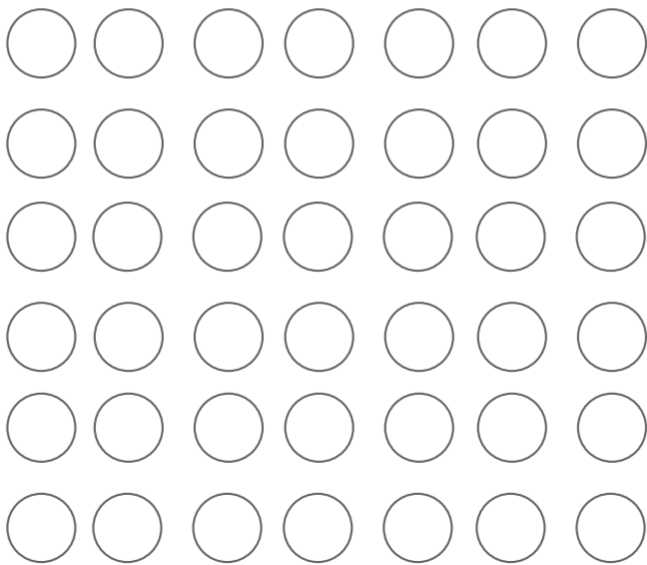


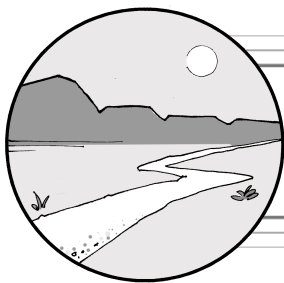
# CONNECT 4 IN A ROW



## How to Play:

This Simple Game Requires players to color in 4 circles in a row to win this can be in any direction, we also recommend laminating this sheet of paper and using dry erase markers to reuse this game more then once. Have Fun!





# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

**Lesson #2-14**

Isaiah 40:1-11

## LAST WEEK

The prophet Jeremiah looks to the future with hope, even though the destruction and disaster prophesied by Huldah is about to happen (Jeremiah 33: [10-11] 14-18).

## THIS WEEK

While Israel is in exile, Isaiah reminds the people that God still loves them and will restore the city of Jerusalem (Isaiah 40:1-11).

## STORY SUMMARY

### Comfort, Comfort My People

Today's text enters the biblical narrative at the time when God's people were in exile away from their homeland. It is difficult to leave home for a place that you barely know; imagine how much more difficult it was for God's people to be forcibly taken from their homes by their enemies. Isaiah's prophecy brought comfort to God's people by reminding them that God was near and would be coming to rescue them. The words of this text remind God's people that God will always rule and the freedom given to them when leaving Egypt will always be there.

## PRACTICE WORSHIP

We need to hear God's words of comfort and hope. In worship, we are reminded that God promises to be with us, and that other people are with us as well. In turn, we go out from worship to help others through their challenging times. As a family, listen to selections of Handel's *Messiah* together.

## NEXT WEEK

The prophecies of Jeremiah and Isaiah are fulfilled as the people return from exile and begin to rebuild the city of Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13).

## THE POINT

We can trust that God will bring us home to God's kingdom.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *Exile and Return*

Today's story can be placed in the historical narrative during the time of the Babylonian exile. This exile, sometimes known as the Babylonian captivity, lasted from approximately 597 BCE until about 538 BCE. During this time, many of God's people in Judah were banished from their homeland and taken to Babylon. In Scripture, the texts in several of the prophetic books (for example, Isaiah and Jeremiah) brought words of hope to those who were away from their home.

### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme of Promises Made, Promises Kept?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people.

Find your favorite comfort object. Explain how it gives you comfort.

#### **Monday—Read Isaiah 40:25-31**

Eagle's wings.

Search for the song "On Eagle's Wings" on the Internet, and listen to it as a family.

#### **Tuesday—Read Isaiah 49:1-6**

The servant's mission.

Light a candle. In what ways are you a light to other people?

#### **Wednesday—Read Isaiah 50:4-9**

Help comes from God.

Share a story about a difficult time that God helped you through.

#### **Thursday—Read Isaiah 53:1-9**

A suffering servant.

This passage predicts the birth of Jesus. How does it compare to the image we find in Luke 2?

#### **Friday—Read Isaiah 55:1-5**

Come to the waters.

Enjoy a meal together while you read this text.

#### **Saturday—Read Isaiah 55:6-13**

God's word accomplishes its purpose.

Draw a picture of what you imagine when you hear these words.