

OUR PART IN THE STORY:

Daily devotions on Sunday's Narrative Lectionary text

Light to the Nations

Isaiah 42:1-9

SHARE your highs and lows for the day.

READ *Sunday's entire text each day to learn the story deeply. Today's text was written to a weary community, living in exile, defeated and downtrodden. These words of hope and light speak to us too, in this third week of Advent.*

❖ This reading is beautifully poetic, but also abstract and complex. Rather than dissecting or explaining it away, respond creatively. Write a melody for the words, draw or paint a depiction of the servant described here, or just act it out.

TALK *about what you just read, and relate it to your highs and lows. The questions and prompts below are intended to spark discussion and action. Use one each day or several at one sitting.*

- ❖ How does this prophet speak differently from others we've read recently? What is the tone of this reading?
- ❖ What are the characteristics of the servant described in this text?
- ❖ These downtrodden people are called to be a light to the nations. What does it mean to you that those who suffer will bring light to the rest of the world?
- ❖ What are the new things that the Lord declares (in v.9)
- ❖ How can you be a light to the nations?

PRAY *for your family and friends, for peace and light in Advent, for your highs and lows, and for courage to be a light to the nations.*

BLESS *each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead and saying, "God bless you with peace and light."*

OUR PART IN THE STORY:

Daily readings based on Sunday's Narrative Lectionary text

Light to the Nations

Isaiah 42:1-9

Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

MONDAY: A Hymn of Praise

Isaiah 42:10-20

- ❖ What does this new song sound like? How is it different from the old?

TUESDAY: Israel's Disobedience

Isaiah 42:21-25

- ❖ Can you imagine or have you experienced the level of desperation described in the people in this text?

WEDNESDAY: Restoration and Protection Promised

Isaiah 43:1-7

- ❖ Which of these words of comfort and care speak to you the most strongly? Why?

THURSDAY: Restoration and Protection Promised

Isaiah 43:8-21

- ❖ Who are the people who are blind, yet have eyes; deaf, yet have ears?

FRIDAY: Restoration and Protection Promised

Israel 43:22-28

- ❖ How have you neglected to honor and serve the Lord?

SATURDAY: God's Blessing on Israel

Isaiah 44:1-8

- ❖ Despite being dishonored and neglected, the Lord still loves and blessed Israel. Do you have any relationships like this? How do you manage it?