



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: Where is the Christ light breaking forth for us?

Lesson connected to Sunday, December 1, 2019

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

Key Verse: “ ‘Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ ” Isaiah 2:3a

Contexts of the Scripture:

- The book of Isaiah is one of the longest books in Hebrew scriptures and covers an extensive period of history ranging from the 8th century BCE before the Babylonian Exile and continuing on through the post-exilic age in the 6th century BCE. Thus, though the traditional view is that Isaiah was written by one person, the vast range of historical references makes this impossible.
- So, Isaiah is usually divided into three sections with the first section (Chapters 1-39) seen as written by the original prophet Isaiah. The second section (Chapters 40-55) known as “Second Isaiah” and the third section (Chapters 56-66) known as “Third Isaiah” were written by later persons, most likely students in a sort of “school” for the training of teachers and “prophets” writing in the style of the original Isaiah.
- Today's text from “First Isaiah” is part of the prophecies of warning Isaiah gave to Israel and Judah about the dangers of straying too far from the path God (YAHWEH) intended for them.

Questions to go deeper:

- What do you make of the description of God's house being “established” on the highest mountain so that all people will be drawn to it? What is the significance of this mountaintop location?
- What are the people supposed to find when they make their way to the top of the mountain? Why are they making this climb? What's in it for them?
- What will happen after the people make their way to the top to receive instruction from the Lord? What will God do then?
- How does the message of this text speak to our fractious situation today, politically and religiously? What do you think Isaiah's warning to us might be?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activities:**
 - Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: Check out the context info above!
 - Has your family had any experiences of mountain climbing or even hiking in a hilly region? Take some time to talk about that experience together. What was challenging? What were the rewards? How has this experience become a metaphor for other things you experience in life?

- If you haven't had a mountain climbing or hill hiking experience personally, think about another experience your family has had together that has been personally challenging. What was it? How does each family member remember it? What life lessons did you learn from it?
- **Younger children activities:**
 - Take some time together to talk about challenges your little ones have experienced, like learning to potty or to tie a shoe or to get dressed by themselves. What made it difficult? How did you encourage them to keep trying? What was it like for them to finally accomplish it? Help your little one to create a drawing or painting of this as you recall the story together.
- **Older children and youth activities:**
 - Check out this video of Ibex climbing a sheer rock face to get to calcium and salt they need to survive:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG9TMn1FJzc>
 - As you watch the video, notice how you react to the climbing animals, especially the baby. Why do you think they are able to do this? Where do you find God in this incredible skill these animals possess?
 - Try to identify some challenge you've been trying to avoid, like cleaning your room or improving your grades in a difficult class. What do you need to meet this challenge? How might accomplishing it impact how you feel about yourself? How can you invite God into the middle of all this? What difference could God's guiding presence make as you face this or any challenge?

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.