



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

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

Lesson connected to Sunday, December 8, 2019

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10

Key Verse: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace" Isaiah 52:7a

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 Thus, though the traditional view is that Isaiah was written by one person, the vast range of historical references makes this impossible.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 "Second Isaiah" addresses its message to those Israelites who have been living in captivity in Babylon for years, letting them know that soon they will be returning home. Second Isaiah emphasizes the holiness of God and the vision of God as a great king, directly involved in the lives and history of God's people.

Questions to go deeper:

- Why, of all the ways Isaiah could introduce this passage extolling the good news of the peace to come, do you think he chooses the metaphor of beautiful feet? What more could he be trying to get us to consider more deeply here?
- What specific direction does Isaiah give to his audience? What does he command them to do if they are to be aware of God's actions in their lives?
- When Isaiah speaks of salvation, he has something specific in mind. When Christians speak of salvation, they also have something specific in mind. Write down each of these two perspectives on salvation as you understand them. How are they alike? How are they different?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activities:**
 - Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: Check out the context info above!
 - What do you think of when you think of "beautiful feet?" What do beautiful feet have to do with the coming of peace? What might they have

to do with it? Search on line or in magazines for images of feet. Create a collage of feet to illustrate the focus text above.

- Have you ever had an experience of tired, aching feet? What might this have to say about the effort it takes to achieve peace? What are some ways you and your family can begin working for peace right now? Make a list and post it where you will see it every day.

- **Younger children activities:**

- Take a piece of white drawing paper. Empty a package of any color jello powder into a large flat dish. Paint the paper with water until it is very wet. Then dampen your child's foot and have them step into the jello powder and then onto the paper without setting the foot down in between. Repeat with other members of the family, or with the other foot of the child. Behold your very own jello portrait of beautiful feet on the walk for peace!

- **Older children and youth activities:**

- Check out this video of a scout group from Bangladesh dancing their message of peace: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXOLV_dXgDY
- Listen to the words they are singing. What are they singing about? Do some research on the country of Bangladesh to see why this video and its message is so powerful, especially from these kids.
- What sort of project might you be able to get your friends involved with to support efforts for peace in our country and around the world? Does your school have anti-bullying programs? If not, talk to your teachers about starting one.

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.