



Discussion Questions

Date: *December 6, 2020* | **Scripture:** *Isaiah 42:1-9*

1. Read [Isaiah 42:1-9](#). What phrases are particularly striking?
2. Isaiah was giving these words to the people of Israel who were broken and sinful, desperate for rescue. These were words meant to inspire longing and expectation in their hearts. What longing or expectation do these words reveal in your heart?
3. The servant in this passage was to bring justice to the nations. Justice is the squashing of evil and the making of good. Where in our world today do you see the need for justice?
4. Jesus brought justice not by inflicting violence on others, but by having violence inflicted upon him. How does this subvert our expectations? As we seek to be followers of Jesus, how might this be a model in our own lives? For ideas, see [Philippians 2:1-9](#).
5. Read [Isaiah 42:3](#). This verse describes the people whom the servant will help. Now, read [1 Kings 19:1-8](#) and [John 7:53-8:11](#). Describe how Jesus (or the angel of the LORD) acts in these stories. How does this comfort you?

Inward Grace in Action

The questions below are a little more intimate and are meant to be discussed with a trusted friend or partner.

1. The words of the servant song in [Isaiah 42:1-9](#) were first heard by a people who felt hopeless. Where do you feel hopeless in your life?
2. Spend some time using [Isaiah 42:1-9](#) as a guide for prayer. Pray verse by verse as the Spirit leads you. See the next page for a suggested guide.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- [Isaiah 49:1-6](#)
- [Isaiah 50:4-9](#)
- [Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#)
- [Isaiah 42:1-13](#)
- [1 Kings 19:1-8](#); [John 7:53-8:11](#)
- [Matthew 3:13-17](#); [11:28-30](#)

Listen to the Advent worship playlist on Spotify.

Reach out if you need assistance during this time:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

You can also find additional resources on our website: capitalpres.org

Prayer Guide for Isaiah 42:1-9

<p>Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.</p>	<p>Lord, I come now to see you in your glory. I come to see Jesus. Open my eyes that I might behold your servant, that he might be a delight to me as he is to you.</p> <p>[Silence]</p>
<p>He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.</p>	<p>Father, I am bruised, I am faintly burning. My burdens right now seem crushing as I wait for you. The pandemic scares me, relationships feel heavy, and I am so tired. And yet, you tell me that Jesus is for me. He will not break me and he will not blow me out. Teach me how to rest in you.</p> <p>[Silence – Rest in who God says that Jesus is.]</p>
<p>He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.</p>	<p>Jesus, you say that you have come to establish justice. I praise you for the cross where you were broken and bruised for my sake. Even so, we still wait. We wait for your justice to cover the whole earth.</p> <p>[Pray for the justice of God to come – pray for justice locally and globally. Think of our mission partners.]</p>
<p>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:</p>	<p>This is who you are, God the LORD. You are the Creator who holds all things in your hand, who ordains the rain to fall and the sun to shine. It is indeed your breath in our lungs.</p> <p>[Pray a prayer of thankfulness that God is who he says he is. Allow your heart to meditate on the truth that it is he who gives breath and spirit.]</p>
<p>“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.</p>	<p>These, Father, are words to your Son in whom you delight. He is our covenant promise and in him there is no darkness at all. Now, Jesus, I pray for those who do not know you. There is much darkness and blindness.</p> <p>[Pray by name for those in your life who do not know Jesus. Pray also for those in the community who are in prison.]</p>
<p>I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.</p>	<p>Thank you, that I know your name.</p> <p>[Praise God for who he is; pray that he would rescue you from the worship of idols.]</p>
<p>Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”</p>	<p>God, you are the Alpha and Omega. All that you speak comes true and we can trust in you.</p>