

Chapter 16 – The Beginning of the End Day One – Penalties of Disobeying

Today's reading: Bottom of page 225 through middle of page 226

This reading covers: Isaiah 3

Summary: Isaiah says there will be consequences if God's people don't change.

Do together: Play "I Spy." Take turns picking some object in the room and telling everyone, "I see something you don't see and its color is...." Everyone else keeps guessing what it is until they figure it out.

Think about: What does a red stop light at a busy intersection warn you to do? How about a "Caution Wet Floor" sign in a restaurant? Are such warnings for our own good? What could happen if we don't pay attention to them? The same thing happened in *The Story*. Isaiah was a prophet. He knew what bad things would happen to God's people if they didn't change their ways, and he tried to warn them. Did they listen? What were some bad things that Isaiah said would happen? Should we pay attention to what the Bible says to us?

Also read: Colossians 1:25-28

Prayer: Dear Jesus thanks for giving us the Bible in which you warn us about things we shouldn't do and teach us the way you want us to live. I pray in your name, Amen.

Chapter 16 – The Beginning of the End Day Two – Words of Hope

Today's reading: Bottom of page 226 through middle of page 227

This reading covers: Isaiah 14, 19

Summary: Isaiah tells God's people about the love God will show in the future.

Do together: Draw a picture of a fortune teller and his crystal ball. Isaiah didn't use pretend magic to predict the future like a fortune teller. Isaiah knew what would happen ahead of time, because God gave him that information through his thoughts and dreams.

Think about: Remember the story about Cinderella? It's really sad at first when Cinderella has to work hard and gets teased by her ugly stepsisters, but it has a happy ending. What happens? Well what happened to Israel is sort of like that. Because of all their sinning, they had lots of trouble, but Isaiah could see the future and knew there would once again be happier times. They would get to go back to their homeland and would once again put their trust in God. Can we always trust God? Is there ever a time – even when you do something bad – that God doesn't love you?

Also read: Psalm 9:10; Isaiah 40:31

Prayer: Thank you, dear Father, for loving me so much that even when I do things that make you sad, you never leave me. I know I can always trust you to be with me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Chapter 16 – The Beginning of the End
Day Three – Punished for You**

Today’s reading: Bottom of page 228 through end of chapter

This reading covers: Isaiah 53

Summary: Isaiah tells about a time in the future when God will make the perfect sacrifice.

Do together: Talk about your family rules. What are the three most important rules? What are the benefits for following these rules? What are the consequences for disobeying them? If you break a rule, who must pay the penalty? What would you think if you broke a rule and someone else offered to pay the penalty?

Think about: When Isaiah talks about the servant who was pierced because we had sinned and who was punished to make us whole again, who is he talking about? How did Isaiah know all those things about Jesus when Jesus hadn’t even been born yet? Do you think the people were happy when they heard about God’s plan to save them through Jesus? Does knowing Jesus died on the cross for you make you happy?

Also read: John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Prayer: Jesus, It makes me smile when I realize how much you love me. Thank you for being my friend, and thank you for being my Savior. I pray in your name, Amen.

**Chapter 17 – The Kingdom’s Fall
Day One – Last Chance**

Today’s reading: Page 118 through break on page 120

This reading covers: Jeremiah 1-2, 5, 13

Summary: Jeremiah tells God’s people this is their last chance to turn back to God.

Do together: Using a timer or the second-hand of a clock, have the leader say “go” and then keep track of 10 seconds. Have the others close their eyes and raise their hands when they think 10 seconds have gone by. The leader should say “stop” when 10 seconds has passed. See who can get closest to 10 seconds without going over. To make the game harder, keep increasing the amount of time that goes by (30 seconds, 1 minute, etc.).

Think about: How close did you get to the correct time? What happened when you waited too long to raise your hand? Time was running out for God’s people to choose to follow him. They were in danger of waiting too long. If they didn’t change now, God’s punishment would follow. As you live day-to-day, don’t wait to do the right thing. Act now, so you don’t miss your opportunity.