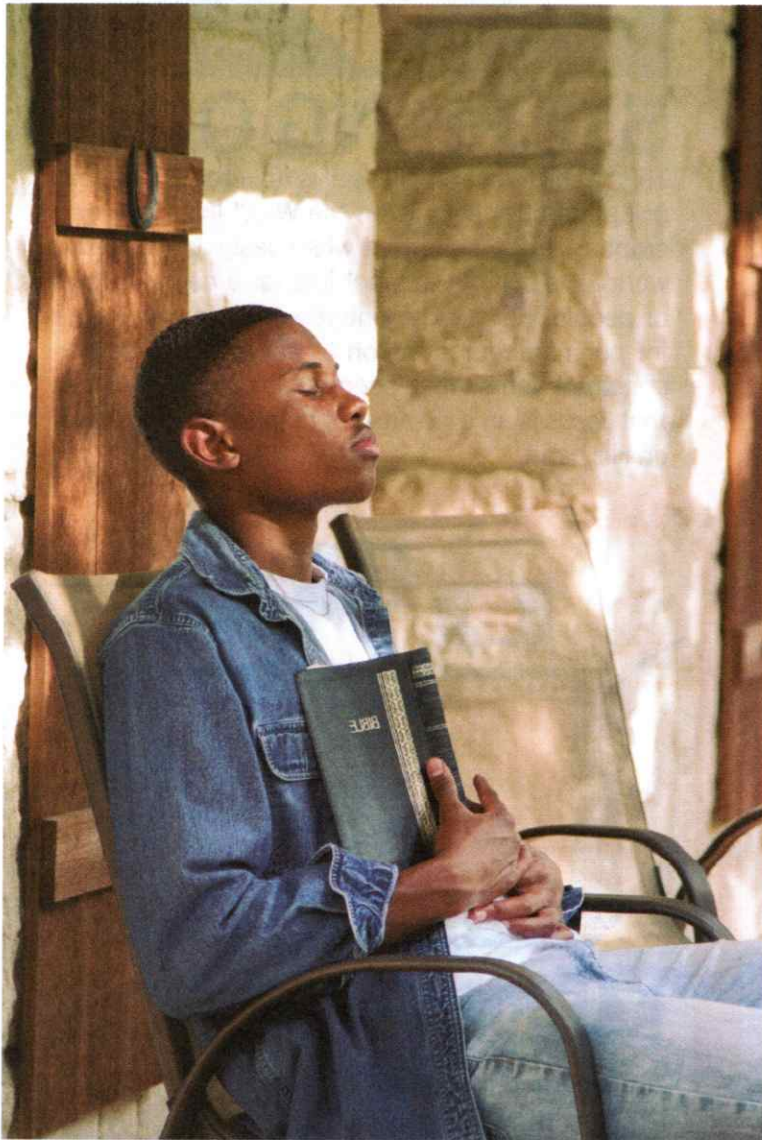


**Background Scripture: Isaiah 51**

**Print Passage: Isaiah 51:1-8**

## L4 Teaching Freedom



### REFLECT



During Emmette's senior year, he thought about what he wanted to do after high school. Reading had always been a problem for Emmette. During most of his school career, Emmette received special education support to help his reading and writing. Although he did well in his classes, Emmette realized that college would be much harder and, unlike most of his friends, he would need to start his college classes at the local community college. Option 2 was to start working a full-time shift at his delivery job so he could save up some money to get his own apartment. What Emmette really wanted to do was join the Air Force. Although this was Emmette's first choice, his inability to pass the ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery) with the needed score for the Air Force made him feel as though one of the other options was more realistic. Emmette took the ASVAB twice, and both times he did not score high enough to qualify for the Air Force. Knowing how important that going to the Air Force was to him, Emmette's parents convinced him to try one more time.

Emmette knew that he would need God's help to make his Air Force dream come true, but he also knew that he would have to do his part. Every evening leading up to the new test date, Emmette completed a section of the practice ASVAB. Emmette prayed regularly and asked God to help him read faster and not get anxious while taking the test. On test day, Emmette relaxed in knowing that he did his best to prepare, and he would

accept the outcome regardless of what it was. After taking the test, Emmette learned that he scored within the range to be accepted into the Air Force. Emmette was proud of his determination and grateful to God for helping him accomplish his goal. In just one month, Emmette would report to basic training for the U.S. Air Force.



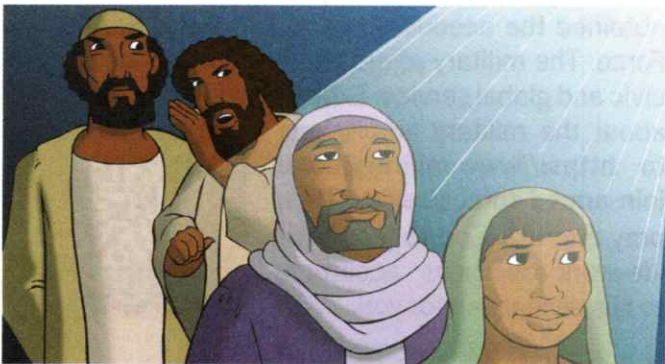
**"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations." (Isaiah 51:4)**



## INSPECT

### Isaiah 51:1-8

**1** “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; **2** look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. **3** The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. **4** Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. **5** My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. **6** Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. **7** Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. **8** For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations.”



## INTERSECT

**I**N TODAY'S LESSON, ISAIAH PROCLAIMED THAT GOD'S DELIVERANCE WOULD COME TO ISRAEL BY POINTING TO GOD'S PAST COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM (SEE GENESIS 12:1-3), WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED THE ROCK IN THE QUARRY FROM WHICH THEY WERE SHAPED AS A PEOPLE. Abraham received many spiritual blessings because of his obedience to God. Abraham became the father of many descendants, just as God had promised. Of this one man, God built a mighty family of believers. The land that Israel occupied had become barren during the Babylonian captivity. God was saying through Isaiah that He would restore the fertile land, and it would be productive again.

The call to “listen” in verse 4 emphasizes the universal and eternal work of Jesus. This deliverance that would be accomplished is not merely for the children of Abraham but for the children of all nations. Not only would the people of Israel wait for the mighty arm of God's deliverance to be revealed (verse 5), but also, the whole earth waits for it. In verse 6, Isaiah was not looking to the near future of Israel's freedom from Babylon. He was speaking of a few hundred years later, when Jesus would come as Savior. When Jesus would come, salvation would never stop. It is just like God's Word—it lives on forever. Isaiah encouraged those who follow God's law. He gave them hope when they faced people's insults and mistreatment because of their faith. Believers should concentrate on loving and obeying God and allow God to deal with those who oppose His teachings.

## Inside Out



Some people never consider that God can change their difficult situations in life to victories. When God is left out of our plans, it is easy to become overwhelmed with seemingly impossible obstacles to overcome. Isaiah encouraged the people of Israel because he wanted them to be hopeful about the deliverance God promised that would surely happen. Discuss ways that believers can keep themselves encouraged and moving in a positive direction when life circumstances are impacting them in ways for which they had not planned or did not expect.