

**Note: In the Book of Isaiah, there are four Servant Songs. In this lesson, we study the first two. The Servant is a mysterious figure. Does he represent an individual or a collective—the Israelite people? These songs are very important to Christians as they predict qualities of Christ and events in his life.**

### Isaiah 42

1. Isaiah gives us the scope of the Servant's ministry. (Is 42:1-4, 6-7) List the things God's Servant will do and those he will not do.
2. *Challenge:* Jewish people identify the Servant in the Servant Song as the Israelite people, while Christians identify the Servant as the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Give reasons for holding either view. (Is 42:1-9)
3. Assuming the Servant Song to be a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, give examples of Christ's words and actions that support what the song says about him. (See Matt 3:16-17; Luke 4:18 or 19, 9:35)
4. *Reflection:* Imagine if God addressed you today as His Servant. What might be some things God might ask you to do as well as things not to do? (Including good and bad things)

**Isaiah 49 Note: The Second Servant Song recounts the call, the commission, and assignment of the Servant. In this song, the Servant is the speaker, though in Is 3:6-7 he also reports the words which the Lord spoke to him.**

5. When did the Servant receive his call to serve? (Is 49:1)
6. God gave his Servant qualities of a "sharpened sword and a polished arrow." (Is 49:2)
  - a. What are some of these qualities?
  - b. Why would they be kept hidden?
7. Isaiah says that God tells the Servant He will use him to display His splendor. Describe the Servant's change of heart. (Is 49:4)
8. Isaiah reveals the Servant's major assignment. (Is 49:5)
  - a. Describe the Servant's assignment.
  - b. What is the source of the Servant's strength that Isaiah mentions?
9. God revises his assignment for the Servant. (Is 49:6)
  - a. What does God now think of the first assignment he gave the Servant?
  - b. What is the Servant's new assignment?
10. Using the Gospel of Matthew, review the entire song as if it were God speaking to Jesus. Pick out things in the song that ring true about our Lord.
  - a. When did Jesus receive his call to serve? (Is 49:1; Matt 1:18-24)
  - b. Did Jesus have a long-hidden life before his public ministry? (Is 49:1; Matt 2:22-23; Luke 3:23)
  - c. How did Jesus display God's "splendor"? (Is 49:3; Matt 27:54)
  - d. Did Jesus find his strength in God? (Is 49:5; Matt 26:42)
  - e. Was Jesus's assignment primarily to bring God's message of salvation to the Jews? (Is 49:6; Matt 3:1-4)
  - f. Did Jesus also carry his message to non-Jews and Gentiles? (Is 49:6; Matt 24:30, 25:31-32)