

## Bible Study Lesson: *Sin Separates, God Restores* - 12/31/2025

### Focus Scripture (NIV – Isaiah 59:1–8)

- 1** Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.
- 2** But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.
- 3** For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things.
- 4** No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.
- 5** They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider’s web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched.
- 6** Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands.
- 7** Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways.
- 8** The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace.

### Lesson Objectives

- Recognize that sin separates humanity from God.
- Understand the seriousness of injustice, deceit, and violence described in Isaiah.
- Reflect on the need for confession and repentance to restore fellowship with God.
- Prepare hearts for the Sunday School lesson on 1 John 1:5–10 and 2:1–6, which emphasize walking in the light and confessing sins.

### Verse Breakdown and Insights

- **Verses 1–2:** God’s power to save is not limited; separation comes from human sin, not divine weakness.
- **Verses 3–4:** Sin corrupts speech and actions, leading to injustice and dishonesty.
- **Verses 5–6:** Sin produces destructive results—like venomous eggs and useless webs—symbolizing futility and danger.
- **Verses 7–8:** Sin leads to violence, injustice, and the absence of peace. Crooked paths represent lives turned away from God’s truth.

## Discussion Questions

1. What does Isaiah mean when he says God's arm is "not too short to save"?
2. How do our sins create separation between us and God?
3. What modern examples reflect the injustices and deceit described in verses 3–4?
4. How do verses 5–6 illustrate the futility of sinful actions?
5. Why is peace impossible apart from God's justice and righteousness?

## Memory Verse

*Isaiah 59:2 (NIV):*

*"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."*

## Why This Lesson Prepares Us for 1 John 1:5–10 and 2:1–6

- **Isaiah 59:1–8** shows the devastating effects of sin: separation from God, injustice, and lack of peace.
- **1 John 1:5–10** emphasizes walking in the light, confessing sins, and receiving forgiveness through Christ.
- **1 John 2:1–6** assures us that Jesus is our advocate and calls us to obey His commands.
- Together, these passages highlight the seriousness of sin and the hope of restoration through Christ. Studying Isaiah prepares us to appreciate the fullness of God's grace revealed in the New Testament.

## Closing Prayer

*Lord God, we thank You that Your arm is not too short to save and Your ear is not too dull to hear. Forgive us for the sins that separate us from You. Cleanse our hearts, guide our steps, and help us to walk in Your light. As we prepare for the lesson in 1 John, remind us that Jesus is our advocate and that through Him we find forgiveness and peace. In His name we pray, Amen.*

## Fill-in-the-Blank Worksheet (Participant Version)

### **Bible Study Worksheet: Isaiah 59:1–8 (NIV)**

#### Focus Scripture

“Surely the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is not too short to \_\_\_\_\_, nor his ear too dull to \_\_\_\_\_.” (v.1)

“But your \_\_\_\_\_ have separated you from your God; your \_\_\_\_\_ have hidden his face from you...” (v.2)

#### Lesson Objectives

1. Recognize that \_\_\_\_\_ separates humanity from God.
2. Understand the seriousness of \_\_\_\_\_, deceit, and violence described in Isaiah.
3. Reflect on the need for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to restore fellowship with God.

#### Verse Breakdown

- Verses 1–2: God’s power to save is not limited; separation comes from human \_\_\_\_\_.
- Verses 3–4: Sin corrupts \_\_\_\_\_ and actions, leading to injustice and dishonesty.
- Verses 5–6: Sin produces destructive results—like \_\_\_\_\_ eggs and useless \_\_\_\_\_.
- Verses 7–8: Sin leads to \_\_\_\_\_, injustice, and the absence of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What does Isaiah mean when he says God’s arm is “not too short to \_\_\_\_\_”?
2. How do our \_\_\_\_\_ create separation between us and God?
3. What modern examples reflect the \_\_\_\_\_ and deceit described in verses 3–4?

#### Memory Verse

Fill in the blanks:

“But your \_\_\_\_\_ have separated you from your God; your \_\_\_\_\_ have hidden his face from you, so that he will not \_\_\_\_\_.” (Isaiah 59:2)

#### Connection to 1 John

- Isaiah 59: Sin causes \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
- 1 John 1:5–10: We must \_\_\_\_\_ our sins and walk in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1 John 2:1–6: Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_ and calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ His commands.

👉 Edward, this worksheet can be printed and handed out so participants actively engage by filling in the blanks during the study. Would you like me to also create a **short devotional handout version** (one-page summary with key verses and reflection prompts) for outreach settings?