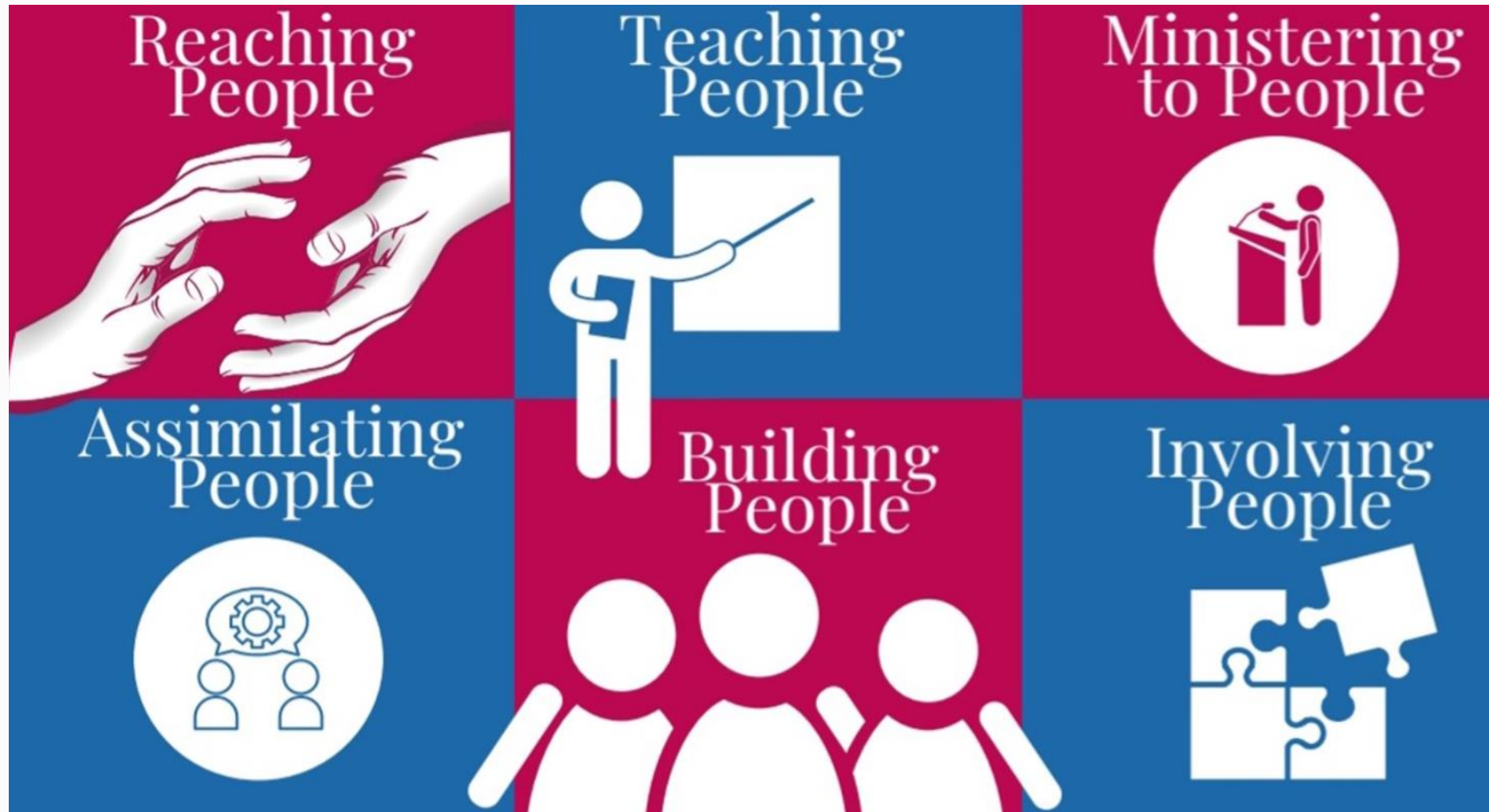




Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 3 September 20, 2026
FOUNDATION OF THE
EARTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalms 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalms 119:105**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 3 September 20, 2026

FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH



- Bible Basis: Isaiah 40:21-31
- Bible Truth: Isaiah declares that God is the absolute power in whom we should depend.
- Memory Verse: “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding” (Isaiah 20:28)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: DISTINGUISH God’s power to control and effect change with human inability to do the same; REFLECT on the poetic imagery the writer uses to witness to God’s sovereign power and personal presence with the people; EMBRACE God’s sovereignty and ability to address people’s situations and needs.
- Background Scriptures: [Isaiah 40:1-8](#) – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

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Lesson Aim

DISTINGUISH

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REFLECT

on the poetic imagery
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EMBRACE

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Background Scriptures: [Isaiah 40:1-8](#)

Isaiah 40:21-31 KJV

21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Isaiah 40:21-31 KJV

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Judgment and Joy. Isaiah 40 is a significant turning point in the book of Isaiah. Until now, the prophetic oracles have largely been about impending judgment on Judah and the other nations of the world. Judah worshiped idols and committed oppression; as a result, they will be judged with other nations. This judgment will result in exile, and the people of God will be scattered to the ends of the earth. The talk of judgment is interspersed with talk of the joy and peace of God's coming Kingdom.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We agree that we should not place loyalty in people or systems to sustain and guide our lives.

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah's Vision of God

In [Isaiah chapter 6](#), Isaiah recounts a profound vision of God's majesty in the temple. He sees the LORD seated on a high and exalted throne and His sheer power and holiness caused the temple to shake and fill with smoke, underscoring God's awe-inspiring presence and purity. Today's passage shifts to a message of comfort and hope for Israel. It declares the greatness and sovereignty of God, who rules over creation with unmatched wisdom and strength.

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah's Vision of God

Mankind though imperfect, and only possessing limited, fading power, is reassured that the weary who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. It contrasts human frailty with divine endurance, emphasizing that God is both transcendent and tender – He measures the heavens yet gently shepherds His people. Together, these passages reveal a God who is both overwhelmingly holy and intimately compassionate, who's worthy of our full reverence and trust, rather than serving the idols of our own imagination.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will decide that we have the blessed
assurance that God is in control.

I. GOD'S POWER OVER CREATION

Isaiah 40:21-22

21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Isaiah begins by asking his audience if they really understand who God is. The greatness of God, the Creator, should be evident to anyone whether they are familiar with the Bible or not. Paul echoes this thought in [Romans 1:20](#): "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." [Genesis 1-2](#) gives us a creation theology that informs our understanding of God's nature. He is not a part of His creation, but distinct from it. There is God, and everything else is not God, including us, His created beings. Any belief that calls us gods is wrong.

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The phrase "circle of the earth" fits into the ancient Near Eastern world view on the structure of the universe. In ancient cosmology, the sky was a round dome over the earth, partly because stars and other celestial bodies were thought to move from horizon to horizon in a half circle. The earth in turn sat on primordial waters, and underneath lay a netherworld or underworld. In the ancient world, the earth was seen as a circle rather than a sphere, more than likely due to the disk-shaped curvature of the horizon. Isaiah is both declaring that God dwells on the horizon – just in sight – and playing on the sound of the words for "horizon" (Heb. *khug*, **KHOOG**) and "grasshopper" (Heb. *khagab*, **KHAH-gahv**), which begin with similar sounds that represent the expanse of God's creation from the vast horizon to the multitude of small insects.

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Isaiah compared our significance to grasshoppers. These insects were so prolific and familiar to the Israelites that the Old Testament contains about a dozen different words for them. This passage emphasizes the smallness of the grasshopper. Isaiah pictures the heavens above the earth as a great vault. If we go outside in an open field on a starry night, we can look up at the stars above as well as the horizon all around, which appears as a great circle. Imagine God sitting up in the star-filled sky and looking down upon the earth at us. We appear as small to God as a tiny grasshopper would appear to us. Just as we can stomp on a grasshopper and end it, so God has the destiny of every human life in His hands. This thought should cause us to tremble in awe before our almighty God! How do you respond to the awesome creations of God?

II. GOD'S POWER OVER HUMAN AUTHORITY

Isaiah 40:23-27

Isaiah is prophesying the period of Babylonian captivity, which imposed new human authority over God's people, who relish their unique identity in the known world of their time. Isaiah reminds the people that while they are at times subject to human authority, they should not worship or put trust in human authority. Even as God has allowed a change in designation, He still controls their destiny and must continue to be worshiped and praised for deliverance.

II. GOD'S POWER OVER HUMAN AUTHORITY

Isaiah 40:23-27

23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. 24 Yea, they shall not be planted: yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither. and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

The Hebrew word for "vanity" is *tohu* (**TOE- hoo**). Among the synonyms for this word are a desolation. a desert, a worthless thing, confusion, an empty place without form, nothingness. a waste. or wilderness. Great civilizations have come and gone, such as the great African empires, the Aztec and Incan empires, and the Roman empire. All people are capable of great civilizations, but these are very fragile. The study of history helps us to see the bigger picture, but all of this is known to God. He sees the beginning and end of all the kingdoms and empires of the world. He is the God of both history and creation.

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The Israelites were looking at the mighty Babylonian empire and trembling But we worship the God of the long view. God dwells in eternal time; He can simultaneously see seconds years, and even millions of years – past, present, and future. Individual rulers may be in charge almost their entire lifetimes and empires may last hundreds of years, but this is just a little blip in God's eternal plans. Earlier in this chapter ([40:7-8](#)), we read that people are just like grass – transitory. None of us will last forever. Even kingdoms of great cultures have come and gone. So we should not idolize or fear a mighty ruler, the head of the corporation we work for, or even our middle-level manager. Just like chaff/stubble, the loose shells that were separated from grain, so will those who are not righteous or just. They are also like the husks that were then blown away with the wind and the edible grain would remain. These became a metaphor for the wicked who would be judged by God: They would be driven away by the wrath of His judgment, and only the righteous would remain.

II. GOD'S POWER OVER HUMAN AUTHORITY

Isaiah 40:23-27

25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. 27 Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

The Hebrew word for "equal" is *shavah* (**shah-VAH**), a word that invites comparison as to whether something is of equal value or quality. The answer is that no one, no god, nothing can compare to God, the Holy One, nothing is equal to Him.

Just as many people do today, the Babylonians consulted their horoscopes to see what was in their future. Isaiah points out that the stars are all under God's command. Why consult the stars, when we know the God who created and controls them? He has a name for each star. Just the Milky Way alone contains 100 billion stars. To count them all would take about 3,000 years, let alone the task of naming them. This causes us to remember that God knows each one of us by name and even knows how many hairs there are on our heads ([Matthew 10:30](#)).

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We may think that no one sees the things we do in secret or knows the things we think about, but God does. Not only does He know everything about us, but He is the one who judges us. "Judgment" (Heb. *mishpat*, **mish-POT**) means a judicial verdict (whether favorable or unfavorable). So this is a paradox. God loves us far more than we could imagine, but He is completely holy and cannot let sin into His presence. This is why each of us needs the Cross. On the Cross our sins were judged, and through the resurrection, we are assured that God has accepted the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins.

III. GOD'S POWER OVER OUR AUTHORITY

Isaiah 40:28-31

God's people will proclaim "He is our God!" Here, they are basically saying, "We trusted in Him and He saved us. This is the Lord, in whom we have trusted." The people of God have come back and declared that "Yahweh is our God" because He has delivered them to freedom. This declaration points to our salvation in Jesus Christ. The believer can exclaim the same thing: "He is our God." Next Isaiah speaks of God's hand of protection and blessings, which will rest upon His people. It will be evident and clear that all believers are God's people. This is the hope and expectation of those who trust in Him. They will be vindicated in the age to come.

III. GOD'S POWER OVER OUR AUTHORITY

Isaiah 40:28-31

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This often quoted Scripture is at once poetic, provocative, and powerful. The hypothetical "have you not known, have you not heard" are rhetorical questions that seek to comfort the believer who expresses doubt or exasperation at God's timing and motivations. The very heartfelt encouragements within these verses acknowledge both God's power and His concern over our lives. He is not distant, if He created and dwells in the ends of the earth. He knows when we are faint and re-energizes us. He increases the physical, mental, and moral strength of those helpless to fend off opponents.

Essentially, the foundation that we enjoy in God is not based on our place in society, our obedience to government, or even our diligence toward His works. He alone is our foundation, meaning He provides and protects us completely on His own!

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To wait on God (v. 31) must then mean that we actively and excitedly seek and see God's involvement at all times. If there is no searching of His understanding, this means there is no limit to what He can do to remedy our situations. Paul expresses this idea in [Philippians 4:19](#): "My God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Waiting on God means that we surrender to His authority personally. Our individual yielding to God allows us to intimately benefit from the strength and supply that He provides.

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The primary difference between God's sovereignty and human authority is motivation. In most cases, the powers of humankind could very easily end poverty, war, and brutality. Even the advances in science technology and medicine could sharply reduce disease and suffering for millions, if not billions of people. Sadly, however, human authority erects barriers to access and thus, progress, because of our greed and quest for power while neglecting the needs of others. God's model, by contrast, is to renew strength. Waiting on God is not waiting in a bureaucratic line, but rather waiting with hope and expectation for the miraculous to happen among the mundane. As the prophet Isaiah issues this song of expectation, he elicits worship out of worry and converts panic into praise. The end result is not just deliverance for personal gain, but deliverance of all who witness the victory that comes after the wait.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

God Sees Everything All the Time

"Everlasting" (Heb. *'olam*, **oh-LOM**) means existing beyond time, before time began, and without any end. As humans, we understand history in terms of a timeline, but the everlasting God sees everything at all times. This is why we can trust our futures to Him. He knows the things that have happened and brought us to this point. He also sees what lies beyond today, and controls all the ages; certainly He has our futures in His hands.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will accept that God can change the circumstances in the lives of God's people.

BIBLE APPLICATION

Today's political seasons seem to last longer than the actual term of office. Often politicians wage campaigns built on the promise of change and reform, yet once in office, they continue to support archaic systems that continue to leave the least powerful people impoverished and hungry. In America, citizens enjoy not only a vote, but also the right to pray and worship freely. Despite political parties' claims of morality and righteousness, it is the citizens who have the ultimate ability to invoke God's presence and obey His will even while serving under an unjust or ungodly administration.

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will agree that God can do the impossible in
their lives.

STUDENT RESPONSES

Isaiah 40 speaks peace in the midst of turmoil. While our lives may not be rife with grave injustice on a daily basis, it is still good to know that hope in God and trust in His foundation will guarantee eventual good. "They that wait upon the Lord" cannot simply be a platitude or a comforting saying. Waiting is an action word, meaning that faith is put to work, resulting in a closer relationship with God and a deeper respect for our place within His creation

Prayer

O God,

You renew our strength when we are weary. Lord, You care for us when we are tired and need care to give us hope and love. Your mercy is everlasting and we are grateful.

In the name of Jesus we pray,

Amen.

Next Sunday
September 27, 2026

Lesson 4
Everlasting Covenant
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11