



The Scrolls

Helping **CENTRAL BIBLE CHURCH** Families Belong, Become and Go Beyond

V28 N19

May 10, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY

"Upheld in Righteousness"

Isaiah 41:8-10

THIS WEEK'S CORE COMPETENCY

Disciple-Making

I multiply godly beliefs, virtues, and practices in others to encourage their spiritual growth in Christ.

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2



How does God support disciple-making moms?

Romans 8:29 is a key verse with respect to God's intention and purpose for every believer. "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." God has predestined those who believe to be conformed to likeness of Christ. While *justification* is an instantaneous act, *sanctification* is a process. It's the process believers all go through to become like Jesus. If viewed from the perspective of holiness, the process is called *sanctification*. If viewed from the perspective of growth toward maturity, the process is called *spiritual formation*. If viewed from the perspective of training, the process is called *discipleship*. All three terms refer to one and the same process. That process is both *intentional* and *incidental*. It's intentional in that believers can *intentionally* engage in the spiritual disciplines that the Holy Spirit uses to transform them—disciplines like worship, prayer, Bible reading and study, etc. It's *incidental* in that believers' unscripted involvement with other gifted believers in biblical community is also something the Holy Spirit uses to transform them—not to mention their response to the uncertainties of life, both good and bad, that come their way. Given these assumptions, disciple-making can be both *intentional* and *incidental*.

Stephane Thomas provides a description of intentional disciple-making from her own personal experience. She writes: "I didn't attend church when I was a child. In fact, my family never really talked about God, Jesus, or religion. The most I knew about the Creator of the world is that my grandma sang weird songs with 'thou' and 'thee' while she was cleaning. Fast forward some years, and at the age of 26, I gave my life to God and asked Jesus to be my Savior. I knew nothing, Zero. Thankfully, I had a wonderful friend

who invested in me and dropped nuggets of truth into my lap for years. She was an amazing disciple and I remember wondering, 'Why is she helping me? Am I really worth it?'

"What compels a person to disciple another? What moves their heart and causes them to pour themselves out, investing so deeply in another? Jesus' parting words to the Eleven in Matthew 28:19-20, 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' What did my friend do to disciple me? What does it take to be a disciple-maker?"

Stephanie goes on to answer her question this way. It takes "time" spent with others. Disciple-makers invest time through personal contact with others. Stephanie writes: "My friend spent time with me despite having newborn twins and a husband who had not yet trusted Christ. She could have passed me to someone else or said she was too busy, but she shared her most precious resource with me, her time." It takes "patience." People don't grow spiritually overnight. Growth is a painstaking process. It takes "love." Disciple-makers love those they mentor. It takes single-mindedness. Stephanie writes: "I imagine it must have been difficult for my mentor to put up with my stubborn ways and resistance to change. She was persistent, gracious, steadfast, and always loving in her approach." And finally, it takes a prayer of dedication like this one. "Heavenly Father, help me to love you so much that the outpouring of this love flows to other people. Help me see others the way that you do and be willing to give my time and energy investing in their spiritual growth. Give me a desire to show others our love and help them grow closer to you. Amen" ("Disciple-Making" in *Essential Provisions*, 115-17).

Read Isaiah 41:8-10

8 *But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;*
9 *you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off";*
10 *fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Read verses 1-7 also

1 *Listen to me in silence, O coastlands;
let the peoples renew their strength;
let them approach, then let them speak;
let us together draw near for judgment.*
*Who stirred up one from the east
whom victory meets at every step?*
*He gives up nations before him,
so that he tramples kings underfoot;
he makes them like dust with his sword,
like driven stubble with his bow.*
3 *He pursues them and passes on safely,
by paths his feet have not trod.*
4 *Who has performed and done this,
calling the generations from the beginning?*
*I, the LORD, the first,
and with the last; I am he.*
*The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
the ends of the earth tremble;
they have drawn near and come.*
6 *Everyone helps his neighbor
and says to his brother, "Be strong!"*
7 *The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith,
and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes
the anvil,
saying of the soldering, "It is good";
and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be
moved*

After reading the text, practice your Observation skills by noting the following:

- Box "But" indicating *contrast* in v. 8.
- Underline "Israel," "Jacob," and "Abraham" in v. 8.
- Double-underline "servant," "chosen," and "friend" in v. 8.
- Bracket "took" and "called" in v. 9.
- Put parentheses around "from the ends of the earth" and "its farthest corners" in v. 9.
- Highlight v. 9b, beginning with "You are my servant, I have chosen . . ."
- Underline "fear not" and "be not dismayed" in v. 10.
- Double-underline "I am," and "I will" in v. 10.

What one word would you use to describe the **TONE** of this passage? (i.e., stern, joyful, cautious, etc.)

What one thing do you not understand in this passage?

Try to summarize the **THEME** of this passage in one word. If you were going to describe these verses, you might say, "This text is about _____."



DIG DEEPER

Answer the questions to help you apply the passage and prepare for discussion

1. Read 41:1-7 and describe how the coastlands' peoples reacted to the threat posed by "one from the east" whom the LORD "stirred up" (cf. vv. 5-7).
 2. After reading verses 1-7, explain the *contrast* introduced in verse 8.
 3. *Whom* is the Lord addressing in verses 8-10?
 4. Regarding poetics, parallelism is a literary technique used in Hebrew poetry. It involves pairing similar or contrasting terms in successive lines of poetry. Where do you see this in verse 8?
 5. Describe the *unique* relationship of the LORD to "the offspring of Abraham" (cf. vv. 8-9).
 6. Why would the LORD *assure* Isaiah's readers that he had not cast them off (v. 9b)?
 7. What *two* things does the LORD want Isaiah's readers to *not do* according to verses 8-10?
 8. And identify the *four* reasons given why they should not (cf. "for," v. 10).
 9. Verse 10 is not addressed to New Testament believers. Explain why its promises can apply to them.
 10. **Discussion.** How might the message of this passage apply to mothers? Or to your own life? Talk about it.
-

Commentary On The Text

“Every promise in the book is mine, every chapter every verse every line; all are blessings of his love divine. Every promise in the book is mine.” While the sentiment of this children’s Sunday School song is laudable, its hermeneutic is deplorable. Here’s what I mean. God made promises to Abraham that he did not make to me. I may participate in some of the blessings promised to come through Abraham, but God is not going to make me a great nation (Ge 12:2), neither does the land promised to Abraham’s descendants belong to me in any way, shape, or form. God made promises to David that he did not make to me. God anointed David king over Israel, and he promised to build David a house, that is, a ruling dynasty, and promised “your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever” (2Sa 7:11, 16; cf. Ps 89:3-4, 29, 34-37; Lk 1:31-33). It goes without saying that the promises God made to David God did not make to me – or to you either for that matter. That does not mean, however, that promises made to a specific group cannot extend to others outside the group. Deciding whether they do or not, and if they do, on what basis is an interpretive matter. In Isaiah 41:8-10, God made promises to *Israel*, the sons of *Jacob*, the descendants of *Abraham*, which raises the question: Can these promises be claimed by the church, the body of Christ, and/or by individual members of that body today?

The book of Isaiah is generally divided into three parts: chaps. 1-39 addressing eighth-century concerns, especially regarding Assyria; chaps. 40-55 addressing sixth-century concerns, especially regarding Babylon; and chaps. 56-66 addressing concerns about all times and occasions, especially until the end. (This simplified overview of Isaiah is found in *ESV*, “Introduction to Isaiah,” 1235.) According to this overview, Isaiah 41:8-10, addresses the situation exiles faced in Babylon during the rise of Cyrus (v. 2). “Not only does Isaiah say that God has called Cyrus forth, he also says that it is God who has given the ‘nations’ into his hand (41:2). Cyrus is able to subdue every nation he encounters with ease, treating them like grain to be threshed because this is in the God of Israel’s plan . . . When the ‘nations’ of earth hear of Cyrus’s earth-shaking conquests, they will be terrified (41:5-7). But what can they do? They know of no gods who rule history on the basis of a righteous plan. So they do the only thing they can do: make better idols” (John N. Oswalt, *The NIV Application*

Commentary: Isaiah, 459).

In 41:8-10, the LORD assures his people that they have no need to worry as the idolatrous peoples of the coastlands do. His unique relationship to them, rooted in the covenant he made with Abraham (Ge 12:1-3; 15:7-18), makes them his chosen people. He took one people – namely, Israel, Jacob, the offspring of Abraham – from the four corners of the earth. He called Abram out of Ur and delivered Jacob out of Egypt. And in spite of the fact, they are in exile in Babylon, they remain his chosen people, his servant. He has not cast them off; on the contrary, he is personally still present with them. “Of course, they are not only afraid that God has left them, they are also afraid that their many enemies will overpower them” (Oswalt, 460). And so, the LORD tells them to “fear not” and “be not dismayed,” and then he tells them why – because “I am your God,” who will “strengthen you,” “help you,” and “uphold you.” God remains faithful even when his people prove to be unfaithful.

While the Lord’s divine promises were made to his Old Testament people, they can be claimed by his New Testament people as well. One commentator explains: “The promise of verse 10 in its context refers to Israel, but the analogy of faith or the wider context of Scripture as a whole informs us that such a promise can be appropriated by any believing child of God in any age or dispensation (see Eph. 1:3) . . . The verbs in verse 10 show what God habitually does for His people. He acts in righteousness in upholding them” (Alfred Martin and John A. Martin, *Isaiah: The Glory of the Messiah*, 112).

Facing life’s challenges, struggles, and disappointments *alone* is more than anyone can bear. Happily, God’s people are never alone. He was *with* Old Testament saints; he is *in* New Testament saints – in the person of the Holy Spirit. What’s more, the writer of Hebrews assures us that Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb 13:5). Believers can live the Christian life and face what life holds in store because God will strengthen, help, and see them through it all. They are never alone!

Word Studies/Notes

v. 8 *But* Verses 8-10, introduces a *contrast* between what the LORD said regarding the descendants of Abraham through Jacob (vv. 8-10) and what he said regarding the idolatrous peoples of the “coastlands” (vv. 1-7). It is clearly true that the promises made by the LORD to the sons of Jacob do not apply to them. The “coastlands”—cf. “Islands” (NIV), “distant lands” (GNT), “lands beyond the sea” (NLT)—are “nations from the farthest ends of the earth” (John N. Oswalt, *The NIV Application Commentary: Isaiah*, 459); cf. Isa 11:11. “The ‘coastlands’ were the farthest reaches of the Gentile world: nations that bordered the seas, the ends of the earth then known, not just islands as such (cf. Jer. 25:22)” (Thomas L. Constable, “Notes on Isaiah,” 2026 ed., 260, soniclight.com/tcon/notes/pdf/isaish.pdf).

v. 8 Israel, my servant . . . “The attention now shifts from the idolatrous nations to the nation of Israel, which God addresses directly in verse 8 and calls His ‘servant.’ This is the first mention of the servant in Isaiah, a theme that recurs several times. In passages such as this one the term is applied to the whole nation of Israel; in others it refers to the nucleus of the nation, the godly remnant; and in still others, to an individual—the Messiah” (Alfred Martin and John A. Martin, *Isaiah: The Glory of the Messiah*, 111).

v. 8 *chosen* “God had chosen the Israelites for special blessing” (Constable, 262). “These verses insist that God has not cast them off because of their sin. In fact, they are his ‘servant,’ his ‘chosen’ (41:8,9). God has not forgotten his promise to ‘Abraham’” (Oswalt, 460). Verses 8-9 “tell us, first, that *Israel* came to be the Lord’s *servant* by divine choice (8b, 9d; Eph 1:4); secondly, that the relationship began with *Abraham. My friend* (2 Ch. 20:7; Jas. 2:23) is literally ‘my loving one’/‘who loved me’. Thirdly, it tells us that the extension of the covenant promise to Abraham’s *descendants* (lit. ‘seed’, Gn. 17:7) still stands (*chosen you ... not rejected you*); and fourthly, that in his choice and calling of Abraham the Lord showed that his power extends *to the ends of the earth ... its farthest corners*” (J. Alex Motyer, *Isaiah*, TOTC, 254). “God’s choice is stated first affirmatively, then negatively: ‘I have chosen you and not rejected you’ (v. 9)” (Martin, 112).

v. 9 *from the ends of* . . . “God reminded His people that He had called them from the remotest part of the earth to be His servant. He did this in Abraham’s case when He called him out of Ur into the Promised Land, and He did it in Jacob’s case when He brought him back into the land from his sojourn near Haran. God had determined not to reject His people. Therefore Israel had nothing to fear (cf. John 15:14-15)” (Constable, 262). Or perhaps the references are to Mesopotamia and Egypt.

v. 10 *do not fear* The idolatrous coastlands’ peoples (vv. 1, 5) feared the “one from the east whom victory meets at every step” (v. 2)—a reference to “Cyrus the Great, leader of the rising Persian Empire, soon to conquer Babylon (cf. 44:24-45:7)” (*ESV Study Bible*, note on Isa 41:2). Babylon, the home of the Judean exiles, was destined to be conquered by Cyrus, who would issue a decree permitting them to return to their ancestral homeland. “Cyrus is indicated, the Persian ruler who is specifically named in 44:28 and 45:1 . . . The deliverer is seen as advancing into new territory, with God providentially delivering up nations before him. This is only one of many passages in the Old Testament that show the working of God in human history” (Martin, 111). “Even though no exiled nation had ever before in history been brought back to start life anew in their ancestral homeland, and even though the Gentile government would have no practical means of inducing the Jews to return home, nevertheless God would bring this seeming impossibility to pass” (Gleason L. Archer, Jr., “Isaiah,” in WBC, 637-38).

v. 10 *for* Indicating *reason*. “The Israelites did not need to fear *because* God was with them, and He had committed Himself to them (cf. Matt. 28:20). They did not need to look one way and then another trying to find safety (cf. vv. 5-6). Furthermore their God promised to help them in every way with His powerful right hand, a symbol of strength, and to do what was right (cf. 40:10-11)” (Constable, 263).



APPLY THE TEXT

CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THIS PASSAGE

Do not fear or be dismayed for God is with you to strengthen, help, and uphold you regardless of your circumstances for you are one of his people.

CENTRAL MESSAGE FOR YOUR LIFE

(Rewrite the Central Message above to personally apply to your own life)



3 LIVING QUESTIONS

The “Living Questions” are simple questions we may ask of any text in order to apply the Bible to our life. Answer the questions below as personally as you can.

1. What does the author of this passage want me to know?

2. What does the author of this passage want me to do?

3. What does the author of this passage want me to be?



PARENT CONNECTION

This weekend we celebrate Mother’s Day. Some moms are “reservation” moms. They’ll enter the week with high expectations of dressing nice and attending a fancy brunch. Other moms are “relax” moms. They’ll make plans to throw their hair in a bun, put on comfy pants and dive into bed for a fat nap. Whatever your style, this is a day of celebration. Moms don’t get PTO days, so give yourself permission to let someone else handle the constant rotation of sippy cup and snack refills and feel free to push off meal prep and laundry. Replace that time with an uninterrupted nap or a hot bath. While you’re at it, take time to seek the Lord. Allow yourself permission to release to Him all the mom guilt, calendar entries, carpool schedule and general parenting anxiety over school, friends, money, etc. Read today’s passage and truly meditate on the last verse, “Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). What part of parenting is causing you to be fearful? When do you find yourself discouraged? Are you feeling weak right now? Are you asking for help from the Lord? Release all of this and allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with His strength. No matter what you’re facing, remember that you’re not alone. The Lord is walking with you every step of the way. He is holding you up and drawing you near. Rest in His love. We’re praying for you!

What Does The Bible Say?

Read Isaiah 41:8-10.

1. What does the Lord call His people throughout this passage?
2. What does the Lord tell the Israelites not to do?
3. What does God say He will do for the Israelites?

What Do You Think?

What promises of God do you see in this passage?

What Do You Do?

What makes you fearful? Take one step of bravery this week to conquer your fear. Remember, God is with you!

CORE COMPETENCY: Disciple-Making

I multiply godly beliefs, qualities and behaviors in others to encourage them to grow in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 41:1

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

KidPIXCOUPON

Earn 1 KidPIX Token by completing the CENTRALKids Bible Study on this page and another token by memorizing and reciting the memory verse for this week.

Questions: kids@wearecentral.org

- _____ I completed my Bible Study
- _____ I memorized this week’s verse
- _____ I brought my Bible to church
- _____ I brought a friend



CHILD’S NAME

GRADE

PARENT SIGNATURE

OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

CENTRAL BELIEFS

Authority of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Church (Ephesians 4:15-16)

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Eternity (John 14:1-4)

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

The Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9)

I believe the Holy Spirit convicts, calls, converts and changes me as a child of God.

Humanity (John 3:16)

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Identity in Christ (John 1:12)

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-4)

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, died for sinners and rose from the dead.

Life Purpose (Acts 20:24)

I believe I am a steward of God's resources and have been redeemed to participate in His Kingdom purposes for His glory.

Personal God (Psalm 121:1-2)

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.



CENTRAL VIRTUES

Love (1 John 4:10-12)

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Joy (John 15:11)

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself and others.

Patience (Proverbs 14:29)

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness (1 Thessalonians 5:15)

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others

Faithfulness (Proverbs 3:3-4)

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness (Philippians 4:5)

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Self-Control (Titus 2:11-13)

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Grace (Colossians 3:13)

I demonstrate forgiveness, mercy and generosity to others, even when they have offended me.

Hope (1 Peter 1:3-5)

I have a growing anticipation of God's promises and my secure eternity with Him.

Humility (Philippians 2:3-4)

I choose to esteem others above myself.



CENTRAL PRACTICES

Bible Study (Hebrews 4:12)

I study the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Biblical Community (Acts 2:44-47)

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Compassion (Psalm 82:3-4)

I seek to serve the last, the least and the lost in my community.

Disciple-Making (2 Timothy 2:2)

I multiply godly beliefs, virtues and practices in others to encourage their spiritual growth in Christ.

Evangelism (Acts 1:8)

I share Jesus with others through personal proclamation and demonstration of the gospel.

Generosity (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

I gladly give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Prayer (Psalm 66:16-20)

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-Mindedness (Matthew 6:33)

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12:4-6)

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Worship (Psalm 95:1-7)

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Tom Bulick (M.A. in Educational Leadership, Eastern Michigan University, Th.M. in Old Testament, and Ph.D. in Bible Exposition, Dallas Theological Seminary). For more than forty years, Tom has served as pastor, faculty member, and administrator. Tom was Vice President for Student Life and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Trinity Western University (Vancouver, B.C.) from 1986 to 1998 and Spiritual Formation Pastor at Central Bible Church (Fort Worth, TX) from 1998 to 2022. He and his wife Ruth have one son, Zach.

Stephanie Thomas (B.B.A University of Texas at Arlington). Stephanie is married to James and they have five children: Elijah, Levi, Bo, Ella and Simon. Stephanie has attended Central Bible Church for more than 20 years, has been on staff since 2014, and now serves as Children's Minister.

The Scrolls Bible Study is a spiritual growth resource of Central Bible Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

© 2026 Central Bible Church.

Material researched, written and supervised by Dr. Tom Bulick. All Scripture referenced from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted. This resource is freely distributed and may be copied without permission.



**CENTRAL
BIBLE CHURCH**

8001 Anderson Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76120
817-274-1315
wearecentral.org

OUR MISSION
Making God known by making disciples who are changed by God to change their world.