

Revealing the hidden

Isaiah 49:1-7

In this second 'servant song', we hear how God's servant was chosen by God before birth, then hidden and prepared for the special mission of not only restoring God's people but also being a light to all nations.

As we reflect on the readings and theme, we also reflect on our own lives. What might be currently hidden, and what is ready to be revealed so that people can see more of who God is?

Read this week's passage:



ACT

Plan a 'reveal' party for your community. Just like a baby gender reveal, or a renovated house reveal, how could you celebrate, and reveal more of God's light and love, for the community around you? You might like to host a community dinner, have an open day with activities for all ages, or bake biscuits to give to neighbours.

Pray



Is there a country you know of or have heard about in the news? Can you pray for that place each day, asking for God's light to shine there?

A A D F N Z L U C
H B S E A R C H K
G A J B N R P H O

Choose an object to hide around the house and play a hide and seek game with it over the week. When someone finds it, remind yourselves that God is working in our lives, and pray for one another in your home.

Find more free Roots resources
to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'In the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.' Isaiah 49:2

Have you ever felt like you were hiding in the wings, waiting for your moment to shine and play your part? Or having done your bit to serve God, feeling that perhaps it wasn't effective? All that effort and nothing to show for it. What's the point?

In this reading, Isaiah describes God's servant, who has been called, trained and prepared, but feels frustrated about not making much impact.

Serving God can be hard. It can be hard to see our effectiveness. We are often self-critical and looking for external signs of success (fame, appreciation, large numbers). Sometimes our serving and care might be unnoticed, unappreciated or rejected.

God responds by reminding the servant (1) that serving God is an honour, (2) that working to restore broken people is a privilege, and (3) God is often rejected too, so we're in good company when that happens.

So how do we respond to our disappointment and frustration? The invitation to us today may be to be hidden again in God's love, like an arrow in God's quiver, so that we are restored and ready to be commissioned again into God's good work. Is God hiding you close before giving you a new commission? How does God want to encourage you today?

First impressions

- What is hidden in this photo?
- Do you keep your faith hidden, or are you open about your values and beliefs?
- What could you reveal to others about your faith to help bring light and hope?



Pray

As we go out into the world,
may we see more of who God is.
May we be ready to listen to the words of Jesus.
May we have the courage to say to others, 'Come and see'.
Amen.

LISTEN



Sing together, or listen to, a song that reveals some of whom Jesus is, for example, 'Jesus is His Name' or 'Jesus, Name above all names'. Reflect quietly on the words.

If you were to write the lyrics to a song about Jesus, what would you want to reveal about him?