

TITLE AND NUMBER: 114. A bruised reed



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.

LOOKING FURTHER:

Matthew 12:18-21; John 8:1-11; John 21:15-17; Matthew 11:28-29; Jeremiah 29:11

What does this Bible passage tell us?

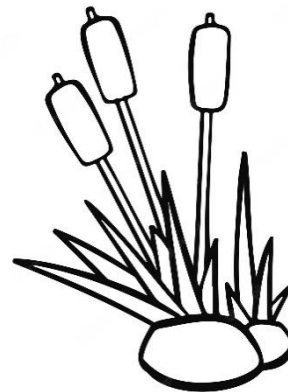
Have you ever felt bruised and knocked about by life? Have you ever felt as if all your plans and hopes were being snuffed out? If so, this is a verse for you.

Isaiah is prophesying what the Lord's servant, the Messiah, will be like. In Matthew 12:18-21, we read that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophesy. Jesus is the Messiah - the Servant of the Lord.

Jesus is the chosen one: Spirit-filled and a delight to God. He is gentle. Using reeds and wicks is less common nowadays, but we get the picture. If we are bruised and battered by life, He will treat us gently. He is the Healer, after all. Remember how gentle He was with the woman about to be stoned in John 8:1-11? She got another chance at life, because of Jesus.

Think of how Jesus forgave Peter who had denied Him. Peter's hopes could have been completely dashed, snuffed out, separated from his Lord. Instead, Jesus reinstated Peter as a leader of the church in John 21:15-17.

If you feel bruised or deflated, then take those feelings to Jesus, who is 'gentle and lowly of heart' and He will 'give you rest.' He loves you, just as He loved the woman and Peter. God will never give up on you. His plans for you are good.



Reflections:

- How does it feel to know that Jesus will always treat us gently when we are hurting or feel hopeless?
- Think of things in life which have 'bruised you.' How would you give them over to God?
- How do you feel when you read that Jesus 'will not falter or be discouraged' when He works with us?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

