



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 13: God Restores
Suggested Week of Use: November 29, 2020
Core Passage: Isaiah 65:17-25

News Story Summary

In India, two men told a doctor that they possessed a lamp like “Aladdin’s lamp” that would bring him wealth, health, and good fortune. The two men even conjured up Aladdin to appear in front of the doctor to convince him that the lamp was authentic (one of the men wore a costume). They offered the lamp to the doctor for approximately \$200,000 and he made a down payment of around \$41,000. The doctor later realized he had been duped and made a police report. The police arrested the two men and believe they have conned other families using similar tactics.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “doctor buys ‘Aladdin’s lamp’ for \$41,600.”)

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention ideas, as the group arrives, share with them about the con men selling “Aladdin’s Lamp.” Solicit response to the story as others arrive. After most have arrived, ask: *Why might a person fall for this trick? What makes the premise appealing?* Record responses on the board. Highlight responses that point to security and hope for a better day. Remind the group that in chapters 40 and following, Isaiah addressed people who were in exile as discipline for their disobedience and abandoning of God. Emphasize that the people Isaiah addressed were looking for a better day and he shared with them a reason to have real hope for such a day. Challenge the group to consider how the future painted by Isaiah offered true hope.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Review idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the doctor that was tricked. Call attention to the summary statements under Apply the Text and direct the group to identify truths from this lesson that could be shared with the doctor and others who have been tricked by the con men. Emphasize that true hope is found only through faith in Jesus. Complete the step as written, leading the group to discuss how the promises in this passage affect how a believer should live today.