



UNIT 4 | SESSION 4

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

ISAIAH 9

CHRIST CONNECTION:

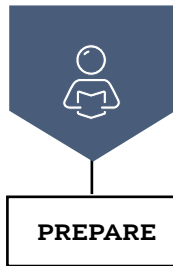
God keeps His promises. God promised to send a Rescuer, so He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue us.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

KEY PASSAGE:

Numbers 23:19



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH



WELCOME

GREET PRESCHOOLERS and OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH PRESCHOOLERS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD PRESCHOOLERS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD PRESCHOOLERS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

God's faithfulness is present throughout the Bible, but the theme is prominent in the Book of Exodus. God is consistent and unchanging. Even when the Israelites are faithless, God is faithful. The Israelites regularly celebrated God's miraculous acts like the Passover and the parting of the Red Sea to remember that God keeps His promises.

As you read and teach from the Old Testament, keep in mind this point on the horizon: God's keeping His ultimate promise to send a Rescuer to deliver His people from sin. God spoke to His people through the prophets to remind them of His good plan.

When would the promised One come? How would He come? Would God's people recognize Him? The prophet Isaiah—who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born—brought a message of hope to God's people.

Isaiah spoke specifically of the Messiah's birth: "The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). He described the birth of a "Prince of Peace"—a Son of David who will reign forever. (Isa. 9:6-7) Isaiah said that He would be a King! (Isa. 11:1-5)

Jesus fulfilled God's promises spoken by the prophet Isaiah. He is the child who came into the world. He is the Wonderful Counselor

who leads us with wisdom. He is the Mighty God who fights for and protects us. He is the Eternal Father who loves us. He is the Prince of Peace who brings us into a right relationship with God.

Isaiah's prophecies from God did not speak just to the people of his time; they also speak to us. Hundreds of years before it happened, Isaiah told of how Jesus would be born and how He would suffer and die to take away the sins of His people.

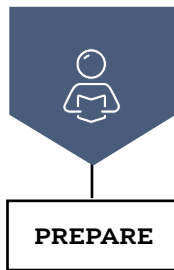
We respond to God's faithfulness with trust, remembering His past miraculous acts and looking forward to the day when King Jesus will come back and rule forever. Jesus is the promised Messiah. He makes all of God's promises come true.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED

Virgin birth (Isa. 7:14): Jesus was born to the virgin Mary. (Luke 1:35)

Prince of peace (Isa. 9:6-7): Jesus gives true peace. (John 14:27)

Everlasting King (Isa. 11:1-5): Jesus reigns forever. (Luke 1:31-33)



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- ☐ “Numbers 23:19” song

Activity Page

- ☐ “A Great Light” activity page, 1 per child

Make a Bible scroll

- ☐ straws
- ☐ clear tape
- ☐ Christmas-themed non-fantasy stickers
- ☐ ribbon or yarn

Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)
- ☐ jingle bells, 1 per child



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ pillowcase
- ☐ baby items (baby bottle, pacifier, diaper, rattle)
- ☐ non-baby items

Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ “God Keeps His Promises” video (optional)

Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Numbers 23:19” song

Learn the Big Picture

Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- ☐ “Missionary Families” printable



LOVE

Snack and talk

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Toss and say a name

- ☐ beanbag



LIVE

Make a promise bracelet

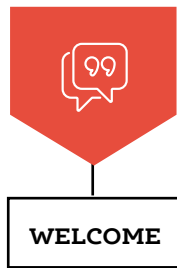
- ☐ fine-tipped permanent marker (adult use)
- ☐ plastic straws
- ☐ chenille stems
- ☐ medium jingle bells
- ☐ masking tape (optional)
- ☐ “Numbers 23:19” song

Learn more about Jesus’ birth

- ☐ non-breakable manger scene
- ☐ Illustrated Bibles
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Make play dough families

- ☐ “Missionary Families” printable
- ☐ play dough tools
- ☐ people shaped cookie cutters



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "A Great Light" on the activity page.

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, the prophet Isaiah said people living in darkness would see a great light, but he wasn’t talking about the light from a lantern, a flashlight, or a lamp. He was talking about a person. Listen to the story to find out who this light giver would be. ”

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

PLAY “LIGHTS OFF, LIGHTS ON”



Tell preschoolers that when the classroom’s lights are dimmed, they should act sad and afraid, but when the lights are turned on, they should act thankful and full of joy. Guide children to have fun alternating between emotions as you turn the lights off and on.

SAY “ In today’s story, we will hear the message that Isaiah gave about God’s promise to send a Rescuer. Isaiah compared the way people were living to darkness and light. He said it was like the people were living in darkness and needed the Rescuer to make it seem like a light would shine on them. The people were lonely and sad, but when the Rescuer comes, the people would rejoice. ”

MAKE A BIBLE SCROLL

Print Isaiah 9:6 on half a sheet of copy paper for each child. Help preschoolers tape straws to the tops and bottoms of their papers to create scrolls. Offer markers and non-fantasy Christmas-themed stickers for children to decorate their scrolls. Demonstrate how to roll the top and bottom of a scroll together and secure it with ribbon or yarn.

SAY “ These are words God’s prophet Isaiah wrote. We read them in the Book of Isaiah. Who do you think Isaiah was talking about in this verse? We’ll hear who all these names were describing in today’s Bible story. ”

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Give each child a jingle bell and invite children to jingle the bells as they transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, collect a variety of items that are used to care for a baby and others that are not. Place items in a pillow case. Remove items one at a time and lead children to decide which items are typically used for a baby.

SAY “When a baby is born, she needs someone to take care of her. Babies grow to be children and finally adults who can care for themselves. God gave a message to Isaiah about a baby who would be born. That baby would grow into a man. We’ll hear more about it in today’s story.”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Isaiah 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “The last few weeks, we have learned about promises God made to Moses and the Israelites. Today, we are going to take a break from the Book of Exodus and skip ahead to the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet who lived many years after Moses and many years before Jesus. God used Isaiah to tell His people more about a very special promise He had made to them long ago.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

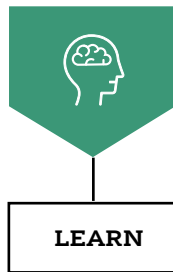
GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

“When sin entered the world after Adam and Eve disobeyed, God made a promise. **God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve’s family. God’s people waited for Him to keep His promise. God sometimes spoke to His people through prophets, people who got a message from God and then told it to the people.**

The prophet Isaiah shared a message about God’s promise to send a Rescuer. The Rescuer would be called the Messiah, which means “anointed one” or “chosen one.” This is what **Isaiah wrote:**

“The people are living in darkness, but they will see a great light. A light will shine on them. God will grow the nation and give the people joy. People will rejoice like they do at harvest time or after a war is won.

“This is how God will keep His promise: A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders.” That meant that Jesus was coming, and He would be a King.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Isaiah also said, “He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Even more names for Jesus! All of Jesus’ names tell us who Jesus is and what great things He would do. Jesus was going to come to earth to help people and keep them safe.

“His kingdom will be full of His power and peace. The kingdom will grow, and He will reign on the throne as the King. He will be a good, fair, and loving King who reigns forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use the timeline: Point to each person on the Giant Timeline as you mention them in the Bible story. Use Unit 2, Session 1 for Adam and Eve. Use Unit 14, Session 2 for Isaiah. Point to Unit 19, Session 1 for the Christ Connection, being sure to point out the similarities between that picture and this session’s Bible story picture.

Use people figures: Gather people figures to represent Adam, Eve, Isaiah, and Jesus. Invite children to hold the figures as you tell the Bible story.

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God keeps His promises. God promised to send a Rescuer, so He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus saves sinners. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue us. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Point to the names of Jesus on the Bible story picture poster.

SAY “ The baby Isaiah wrote about was Jesus. Jesus is our wise and Wonderful Counselor. Jesus is the Mighty God who performed miracles. Jesus is our Eternal God who lives forever. Jesus is our Prince of Peace who brings peace between God and people. God sent Jesus to earth to rescue sinners. Jesus grew up and died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue people from sin. ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Numbers 23:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Tell preschoolers that the Book of Numbers is the fourth book in the Bible. Challenge boys, then girls, to say the key passage from memory. Repeat it together a few times.

SAY “ We can trust God when He makes a promise. God is not a man. People don’t always keep their promises, but God always does what He says He will do. God promised to send a Rescuer, and He did. God sent His Son, Jesus. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Numbers 23:19.” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY “ We can believe that God’s promises are true. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.** God kept His promise to use Moses to free the Israelites from a life of hard work in Egypt. When God promised to send a Rescuer, He sent Jesus, His Son. Jesus came into the world as a baby to save sinners through His death on the cross. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Display the photo collage from the first page of the “Missionary Families” printable.

SAY “All of the families we see here are missionaries. Missionary families work together to tell people about how God kept His promise to send a Rescuer when He sent Jesus. Do you recognize one of these families?”

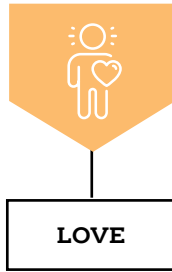
Draw attention to the McDonald family and remind children how they have been learning about the McDonald family the last few weeks. Show the drawing from the second page of the printable.

SAY “An 8-year-old missionary kid named Benny drew this picture. Can you describe what Benny drew? [Allow responses.] Benny and his parents tell people about Jesus. Benny knows exactly what kind of mission his family is on. He drew what it is that they do—teach people that Jesus loves them.”

Close in prayer for Benny’s family, the McDonalds, and other missionary families who work together to tell people about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “Thank You, God, for always keeping Your promises to us. We celebrate You for sending Jesus to be born to be our Messiah and our Rescuer. Thank You for telling Isaiah so long ago that Jesus would be born and what He would be like. Thank You most of all that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue us from sin. Amen.”

2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

SAY “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

SAY “What are some of the names Isaiah called Jesus?”

SAY “Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.”

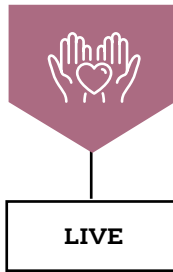
3 TOSS AND SAY A NAME

Print the names used to describe Jesus in the Bible story on pieces of construction paper and scatter them randomly on the floor all around. Use names such as: King, Rescuer, Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, Messiah, Chosen One, Anointed One. Give a child a beanbag and encourage her to toss it onto one of the names. Read the name and if applicable, show the child the place in Isaiah 9 where the name is found.

SAY “In Isaiah 9, we read that the Rescuer God promised would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Knowing the names of Jesus can help us remember what He is like. He is our Wonderful Counselor who will give us wisdom. He is the Mighty God who has power over everything. He is our Eternal God who will never ever leave us. He is our Prince of Peace who gives us peace with God. How wonderful it is to think that God would send His Son, Jesus, to save sinners! Did God keep His promise to send a Rescuer? **Yes, God always keeps His promises.**”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

SPEAK LIKE A PROPHET



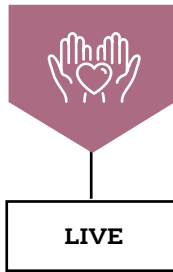
Invite children to take turns pretending to be Isaiah. Lead a child to stand in front of the group. Quietly whisper a phrase from Isaiah 9 into his ear. Encourage him to loudly repeat the phrase to the group. Whisper phrases like: “God will send a Rescuer.” “He will be called Messiah.” “Messiah means Anointed One.” “Jesus is the Chosen One.” “People will rejoice.” “A child will be born to us.” “He will reign forever.” Show children the place in the Bible where we read Isaiah’s words.

SAY “ This is the place in the Bible where Isaiah wrote about Jesus. Isaiah wrote these words hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Isaiah’s words tell about God’s promise to send a Rescuer, someone who would take the punishment for our sin. That Rescuer is God’s Son, Jesus. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue us. ”

MAKE A PROMISE BRACELET

Before the session, use a fine-tipped permanent marker to write *God keeps His promises* on a plastic straw for each preschooler. Leave space between each word. Give each preschooler a straw and a chenille stem. Invite preschoolers to use blunt-tipped scissors to cut apart their straws so each word is on one piece. Help preschoolers string the words in order on a chenille stem. Offer bells for preschoolers to add to their bracelets. When a child is finished adding words and bells, help her wrap her bracelet around her wrist and secure it in place. Consider using masking tape to cover any sharp ends. Play the key passage song and invite preschoolers to shake their bracelets to keep time with the music.

SAY “ When we came to the Bible story area we each rang a jingly bell, and now we have made a jingle bell bracelet. Whenever you hear the bells jingle on your bracelet, I hope you think about how much God loves us. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.** God promised to make a way for sinners to be rescued. Jesus, God’s Son, was His promise to us. Jesus came into the world as a baby to save sinners. ”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS' BIRTH

Provide a non-breakable manger scene for preschoolers to play with. Identify each figure. Guide a child to build an animal enclosure with blocks to resemble the stable where Mary had Baby Jesus. Retell the story of Jesus' birth with the figures and play it out a few times, using Luke 2 and Matthew 2 as a reference. Show pictures of Jesus' birth in an illustrated Bible and on the timeline. Review the Bible story of Isaiah's prophecy and connect it to the story of Jesus' birth.

SAY “ At Christmastime we celebrate Jesus' birth. Jesus was born just as Isaiah had said. Many years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote about God's promise to send a Rescuer to save sinners. God would send His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby to be that Rescuer. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.** Jesus is the Rescuer that God promised. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue us. ”

MAKE PLAY DOUGH FAMILIES



Display the “Missionary Families” printable. Give each child a ball of play dough. Set out play dough tools, including people shaped cookie cutters. Invite preschoolers to make a play dough person to represent each member of their families. Ask preschoolers questions about their families as they work. Be sensitive to family situations.

SAY “ God kept His promise to send a Rescuer from Eve's family when He sent Jesus. We have been learning about the McDonald family. The McDonalds are telling people in Tanzania that Jesus is the Rescuer God promised to send. One day God may call you or your family to a faraway place to tell people about Jesus, but for now, you can tell the people He's put around you. Let's give it a try. Everyone tell one person that Jesus loves them. **[Allow preschoolers to tell one another that Jesus loves them.]** See! Its that easy. Let's pray and ask God to help us tell others that Jesus loves. ”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete the coloring page. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.