



Unit 16 | Session 4

GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

Isaiah 7

Ahaz was not a good king. When he ruled over Judah, he did not do what was right. Ahaz made sacrifices and offerings to idols. Idols are people and things that are worshiped but are not the one true God. During Ahaz's time as king, two other kings—the king of Israel and the king of Aram—agreed to protect each other in battles. King Ahaz gave silver and gold to the king of Assyria. Assyria was a strong nation, and the king of Assyria agreed to protect Judah.

One day, Ahaz heard that the kings of Israel and Aram were coming to Judah. Their armies were going to attack Jerusalem! Ahaz was afraid! Everyone in Judah was afraid.

But Ahaz didn't need to be afraid. He should have trusted God. God had promised his ancestor, King David, that He would be with His people. God sent the prophet Isaiah to talk to Ahaz. Isaiah said, "Pay attention and be quiet. Trust God. Be confident that God will take care of you."

God had good news for Ahaz. "The kings of Israel and Syria are planning to attack Jerusalem and make someone else king. But this won't happen," God said. "If you do not trust Me, you will not last."

Isaiah said to Ahaz, "Listen! God is going to give you a sign to prove He is telling the

truth. Here is the sign: A virgin will have a baby. She will name the baby Immanuel."

Isaiah told Ahaz that very soon, the kings of Israel and Syria would not be a threat to Judah. "But," Isaiah continued, "God's judgment is coming. He is going to judge you and the people of Judah. You have not seen judgment like this since Solomon's kingdom was divided into Israel and Judah. The king of Assyria and his strong army is coming to attack!"

On that day, God will send enemy armies to Judah. The Assyrians will come from the north, and the Egyptians will come from the south. They will be everywhere, like flies and bees," Isaiah said. "You won't be able to escape!"

Christ Connection: God is present with us. He sent prophets to His people, even in captivity, and promised to send Immanuel, which means "God with us." Jesus fulfilled this promise when He came to earth and was born of a virgin. Jesus is our Immanuel, God with us.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **When you're afraid, do you feel better alone or when you are with someone? Why?**
- **How does knowing someone is with you make you feel better?**

2 SESSION STARTER

☐ OPTION 1: LOOK IT UP



Before the session, write the following references on index cards: Psalm 9:10; Psalm 28:7; Psalm 31:14; Psalm 118:8; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 12:2; Isaiah 26:4. Hide the index cards around the room before the session begins.

Instruct the kids to go on a scavenger hunt for the index cards. When all cards have been found, encourage the kids to look up the verses in their Bibles and write the verses on the opposite side of the index cards.

SAY “ God’s Word instructs us to trust in Him in all situations. He cares for us and we can trust Him in all things. Today, we will learn that King Ahaz had a choice to trust in God or act out of fear. ”

☐ OPTION 2: GOD WITH US

Use a search engine to print off pictures of the following: pillar of cloud, pillar of fire, tabernacle, and temple. Tape the pictures to a wall.

Guide kids to think about how each of the pictures represents a way God was with His people. Ask kids to discuss how God was faithful even when the people sinned.

SAY “ We serve an invisible God, but God chose to use earthly things to show He was with His people. In today’s Bible story, we will learn about a promise God made and how this promise points to God becoming flesh to dwell with people on earth. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about how God is present with us. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Isaiah 7.

•What does this story teach us about God?

God's promises can be trusted because everything God says will come true. God promised to send the Savior into the world, and He did! We can trust God and remember that through Jesus, He is always with us.

•How can we be with God forever?

Only by faith in Jesus can we live with God forever. God's presence cannot be earned. We must trust in Jesus for salvation. When we do, Jesus is always with us.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God is present with us. He sent prophets to His people, even in captivity, and promised to send Immanuel, which means "God with us." Jesus fulfilled this promise when He came to earth and was born of a virgin. Jesus is our Immanuel, God with us.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Tell kids that every member of the Kamal family helps in the ministry of the church. Explain that Pastor Shahid's kids help in the youth ministry and his wife, Maroofa, speaks to the women in the church. Tell kids that the church leaders are helping people to know more about Jesus by conducting home Bible studies and weekly Bible studies at the church. Pray for the Kamal family as they lead the church and help others in the community understand what it means to be a Christian.

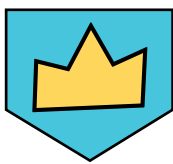
3 PRAY

Father, thank You for promising to be with us. Thank You for loving us and desiring to be with us. Help us to always trust You, even when we are afraid. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



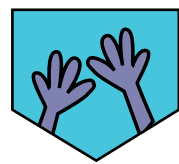
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



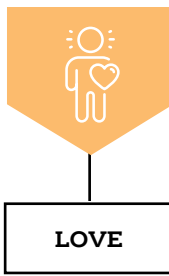
JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- How can we know that God is always with us?
- Who do you know that needs to be reminded that God is always with believers?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Isaiah 7. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 7:14. Remind preteens that our reaction to God's Word should not be like Ahaz. Tell kids that we should trust God's Word and believe all that He says is true. Remind kids that through Jesus, we can know with confidence that God is always with us.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 7:14 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. How did God show His people that He was still with them during exile?

Lead kids to understand that God reminded His people that He was still with them and was going to fulfill His promise through the prophets. Remind kids that the prophets spoke God's words to the people telling them things that God was going to do and why they should trust God at all times.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Jer. 30:1-3.)

2. When others are afraid, what can we tell them?

Remind kids that everyone is afraid at times, but that we can overcome our fears by remembering God is with us. Encourage kids to teach others about Jesus and how Jesus has made the way for us to be with God forever. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 56:3-4.)

3. Who can you tell about God's promise to be with us?

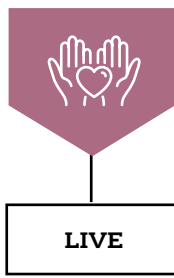
Encourage kids to think about opportunities they have to share the gospel with others. Remind kids that they can tell others about how Jesus has saved them.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 5:19.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Where is God?

God is in all places at all times and is always with His people.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Zephaniah 3:17. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Distribute index cards and colored pencils to kids and have them write the key passage on an index card. Encourage the kids to take the index card home and place it in a visible area where they can be reminded daily of God's desire to be with us.

Discuss how throughout the Bible story and throughout Scripture, we see that God is present with His people. Remind kids that the key passage helps us remember God's promise to be with us. Encourage kids that He is among us, with us, and for us.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God that through Jesus He promises to be with us always.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

BINGO

Distribute pencils and paper to each kid. Instruct kids to draw a 4x4 Bingo grid. Direct kids to fill in the board using the words from the big picture answer, **God is in all places at all times and is with His people**, and the words Immanuel, trust, present, and promise. Guide kids to use small scraps of paper as their bingo chips. Instruct kids to place a small scrap of paper on the word when it is called. The first kid to get four in a row wins. Play again as time allows.

Remind kids that we can trust that, through Jesus, God is always with us. Discuss how God's presence should give us great comfort and encouragement. Encourage kids to remember that God is with them when they are in a hard situation or feel afraid.