

Isaiah Preached About the Messiah

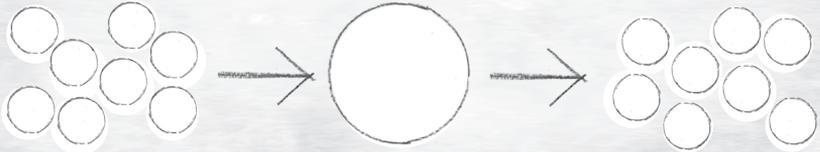
BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 53

MAIN POINT: God said Jesus would suffer.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

SMALL GROUP OPENING (15–20 MINUTES) **LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY** (10–15 MINUTES) **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** (20–25 MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Isaiah contains four Servant songs—poems about the servant of God. (See Isa. 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:12–53:13.)

In these poems, the prophet Isaiah describes God’s plan of redemption. We see a vision of the promised Messiah, the innocent substitute who would suffer for the sake of sinners. Through Jesus, God brings sinners back to Himself.

The fourth and final Servant song is found in Isaiah 53. In this passage, Isaiah provides an answer to these questions: How can a just God justify the ungodly? How can He

declare innocent those who are guilty? How can He treat bad people as though they are good? How can He love people like us?

A just God can't just look the other way. He doesn't say, "Don't worry about it," or "No big deal." That's cheap grace. Sin against a big God is a big deal. God didn't just forgive our sins, He dealt with them. And this grace was costly. The price? God's own Son.

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies of a Suffering Servant. People assumed God had cursed the Suffering Servant for His own sins. But no; Jesus was sinless. So why did He suffer? Isaiah wrote that He was pierced because of *our* transgressions and crushed because of *our* iniquities. His punishment is what brought *our* peace. The Suffering Servant died the death we deserve. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are wiped away—paid for by His blood—and His righteousness is credited to us.

When Christ's work on the cross was finished, God rewarded Him. "For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Isaiah Preached About the Messiah

Isaiah 53

Isaiah was a prophet. He gave the people of God special messages from God about what was going to happen in the future. Isaiah said that God had a plan to send someone—the Messiah—to rescue people from sin. The Messiah would be a servant of God.

Isaiah said, “God’s servant grew up, and He looked very ordinary. No one paid attention to Him, and they did not want to be His friend. They stayed away from Him. God’s servant hurt.”

Isaiah said that people saw God’s servant, but they looked the other way. They did not care about Him or love Him. But God’s servant still did what God wanted Him to do. He came to help people and save them from sin.

The servant was punished. People thought that He was punished because He had done something wrong, but He did not do anything wrong! We were supposed to be punished, but instead of punishing us, God punished Him!

Then Isaiah said that the Messiah was hurt and treated badly. “But He did not say anything,” Isaiah explained. “People were unfair to Him, and they took Him away. He was treated like a criminal, but He is not a criminal.”

But even though bad people did this to God’s servant, God planned this. When the servant died, He took away people’s guilt so God could look at them and say, “Not guilty!” God even said, “You’re good!”

God’s servant did not stay dead. God brought Him back to life! God’s good servant will see all the people He

saved, and He will be happy.

“Then God will give Him a reward,” Isaiah said. “God will give Him honor for doing the right thing and for saving people from sin. God will welcome His friends who once walked away from Him.”

Christ Connection: God’s servant Isaiah wrote about Jesus. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Many years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote these words. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that God’s people were like sheep who stray away. (Isa. 53:6) Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. (John 10:11) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Isaiah Preached About the Messiah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 53

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KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Welcome time

- “Only One True God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Connect the Dots” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Instruct boys and girls to connect the dots to discover whom Isaiah prophesied about.

SAY • When you connected the dots, whom did you discover? Jesus, that’s right! In today’s Bible story, Isaiah told about the Messiah—Jesus. Isaiah wrote these words a long time before Jesus would come to earth and suffer to rescue people from sin.

Draw a picture of a friend

Place preschoolers in pairs. Lead each pair to sit across the table from each other. Invite preschoolers to draw a picture of the child they are paired with. Point out features such as eye color, hair color, and skin color. Help preschoolers select appropriate colors of markers or crayons. For younger

LOW PREP

- paper
- markers or crayons

preschoolers, draw the outline of a face on their paper to help them get started.

SAY • You made lovely pictures of your friends. Today’s Bible story tells about someone who looked very ordinary. People didn’t pay attention to this person or want to be His friend, but this person was far from ordinary. He would do something extraordinary that would change the entire world forever. Let’s find out who this person is in today’s Bible story.

Look at poetry books

Invite preschoolers to look through poetry or nursery rhyme books while you read some of the poems to them. Explain that often a poem contains words that rhyme.

• poetry or nursery rhyme books

SAY • Did you know that the Bible has poems in it? Our Bible story today is a poem that the prophet Isaiah wrote. Isaiah’s poem was not fun or silly. It was true and about something very serious that would happen in the future. God gave Isaiah the words for the poem. This poem told about the most important thing that would ever happen. Let’s hear what it is about in today’s Bible story.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to make their most serious face as they move to Bible study.

• countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Isaiah Preached About the Messiah

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Introduce the Bible story

• newspaper

Show preschoolers a newspaper.

SAY • A newspaper tells what has happened, is happening, or will happen. In today's Bible story, Isaiah told the people about something that would happen in the future. What Isaiah told about is the most important thing that ever happened. We don't read about it in a newspaper; we read about it in the Bible.

Watch or tell the Bible story

• bookmark
• Bible
• "Isaiah Preached About the Messiah" video
• Bible Story Picture Poster

Place a bookmark at Isaiah 53 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book there is. The Bible has God's words in it, and everything in the Bible is true. Today's Bible story is found in Isaiah.

Show the Bible story video "Isaiah Preached About the Messiah," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

• Main Point Poster
• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • God had a plan to send someone—the Messiah—to

rescue people from sin. Jesus is the Messiah whom God sent. **God said Jesus would suffer.** Instead of punishing us for our sin, God punished Jesus. Jesus saves people from sin.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Whom did Isaiah say God would send? (*a Messiah*)
2. How did the Messiah look? (*ordinary*)
3. Did people want to be the Messiah's friend? (*no*)
4. Was the Messiah punished because He did something wrong? (*No, God punished Him instead of us.*)
5. Did God's servant stay dead? (*No, God brought Him back to life.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • *How many gods are there? There is one true God.*

Only the one true God could plan to take what bad people did to His servant and use it to take away people's guilt. Now the one true God can look at sinful people like us and say, "You're good!"

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Hebrews 1:1-2. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Speaking to Us."

SAY • We don't need prophets to give us God's messages anymore because God sent Jesus. Jesus is God the Son. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. The Bible tells us Jesus did everything needed to rescue us from sin.

• Key Passage Poster
• "Speaking to Us" song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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Sing “The B-I-B-L-E”

Set out Bibles for preschoolers to look through. Show them where Isaiah 53 and Hebrews 1:1-2 are in the Bible. Lead preschoolers in singing “The B-I-B-L-E” as they reverently hold a Bible. If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics or tune, look them up online before the session.

SAY • We find God’s words in the Bible. God used prophets like Isaiah to tell His plan to His people. Many years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote that **God said Jesus would suffer**. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.

Play tag with name tags

Prepare two name tags for each preschooler. On one name tag write *sin*. On another name tag write *good*. Choose one preschooler to be *Jesus*. Place all the *good* name tags on *Jesus*. As you place a *sin* name tag on all the other preschoolers, explain that all people are sinners. Explain *Jesus* will be *It* as children play tag. When *Jesus* tags a child, *Jesus* puts the tagged child’s *sin* name tag on himself and puts a *good* name tag on the tagged child. Play until all children have a *good* name tag and *Jesus* has only *sin* name tags.



• Bibles

• blank adhesive name tags
• markers

SAY • God said that Jesus would suffer. Jesus was completely good. He never sinned. Did Jesus deserve to suffer for sin? No! When Jesus died, He took away people's guilt so God could look at them and say, "Not guilty!" God even said, "You're good!" Jesus is the Servant who died and came back to life to save people from sin.

Work puzzles

Gather puzzles depicting Jesus for preschoolers to work. If puzzles depicting Jesus are not available, make puzzles by drawing a cross on a sheet of construction paper and cutting the paper into six to eight pieces. Make multiple puzzles using different colors of construction paper. As preschoolers work, talk about what Jesus is doing in each puzzle or review the Bible story.

- puzzles depicting Jesus
- construction paper (optional)
- marker (optional)
- scissors (optional)

SAY • God's servant Isaiah wrote about Jesus. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. **God said Jesus would suffer.** Many years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote these words. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.

Play with people figures

Invite preschoolers to build a city or town with blocks. Provide people figures for preschoolers to play with in the block city they built. As preschoolers work remind them that God loves all people. God loves people so much He sent Jesus to rescue people from sin.

- blocks
- people figures

SAY • God loves people. God wants people to turn from their sin and love Him. That's why He sent Jesus. **God said Jesus would suffer.** Even though bad people did mean things to Jesus, God planned for it

to happen that way. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for sin. Jesus is the Servant who died and rose again to save people from sin.

Dig for JESUS letters

- construction paper
- marker
- box
- shredded paper
- letter magnets
- cookie sheet

Write *JESUS* on a sheet of construction paper. Hide letter magnets in a box filled with shredded paper. For younger preschoolers, only hide the letters of Jesus' name. Invite preschoolers to dig for the letters to spell *Jesus*. Invite them to use the *JESUS* sign as a guide as they spell out *Jesus* with the magnets on a cookie sheet.

SAY • Many years before Jesus was born, God's servant Isaiah wrote about Jesus. God gave Isaiah the words to write. **God said Jesus would suffer.** God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve a snack. As preschoolers eat, talk about how fun it is to spend time with friends at church. Remind preschoolers that Isaiah wrote that people did not want to be the Messiah's friend. They stayed away from Him and looked the other way when they saw Him. Ask preschoolers how it would feel to be treated that way. Explain that even though it was hard, God's servant still did what God wanted Him to do. He came to help people and save them from sin.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of Jesus. Remind preschoolers that **God said Jesus would suffer**. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin and come back to life. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that You took the bad things that people did to Your servant and You use them for good. Thank You that when we trust in Jesus, You save us from sin. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*