

ISAIAH

(Fulfilling the Prophecy)

BIBLE VERSE

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.
(Isaiah 7:14)

BIBLE STORY REFERENCE

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2; 6; 11:1-9

MAIN IDEA

Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.

OBJECTIVES

Children will explore these concepts:

- * Jesus was the promised Messiah, God's representative in the earthly kingdom.
- * Isaiah, a prophet whose name means "God has saved," told the people of God's promise to send a savior to help them.
- * The promise of a Messiah filled the people with hope and peace.

* We can share the hope, peace, and love of Jesus with others.

* During Advent we tell the stories of Jesus' birth, God's promise fulfilled.

For All Your Volunteers

Photocopy these sections for ALL your volunteers:

- * Main Idea; Objectives (page 3)
- * Bible Story; Bible Background for Leaders (page 4)
- * About the Children; Shepherd Tips; Greet the Children (pages 4-5)
- * Check Your Facts (pages 5-6)



BIBLE STORY

Summary: Isaiah 7:14; 9:2; 6; 11:1-9

Long before Jesus was born, the Hebrew people were living in a time of great strife and unrest, and they longed for peace and hope. Their prophets told them of a promised Messiah, a gift from God. The Messiah would be a savior who would care for them as a shepherd cares for sheep. The promise was like a light leading them out of the darkness.

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

The Book of Isaiah is the first of the major prophets (*major* referring to length, not importance) in the Old Testament. Isaiah contains more information about the Messiah than any other Old Testament book. Isaiah, a Hebrew prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah, was a counselor to kings during the time of two major crises: war with Syria and threats by the Assyrians. This aristocratic priest experienced the power of God's presence (Isaiah 6:1-8) and answered the call to speak out on behalf of social and political justice. Isaiah abhorred the moral laxity and greed of the people and the resulting social injustice.

As a prophet, Isaiah interpreted the actions of God in historic events and foretold the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah described the Messiah as both a suffering servant and a sovereign Lord.

Christians believe that Jesus embodied these prophecies. He was a light shining in the darkness, a prince of peace, a suffering servant. He was Emmanuel, God with us.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN

The promise of the Messiah is difficult for children to understand. Some children will question how Isaiah knew God had promised a child to bring hope to the people; others may wonder why the world is still in turmoil even after Jesus, the Messiah, has come.

Let the children express their feelings and ideas. Remember that it is O.K. to say, "I don't know."

Help the children focus on the fulfillment of God's promise of hope, love, joy, and peace through Jesus Christ. Point out that we are human. We make mistakes and do things that cause problems in the world. We need God's guidance to make the world a better place in which to live.



Younger Children will explore the meanings of “*Messiah, prophet,* and *Immanuel.*”

Older Children will explore the concepts of hope, peace, and justice as well as the meanings of Messiah, prophet, and Immanuel.

SHEPHERD TIPS

- * Pray each week for the children under your care.
- * Model the behavior you want from the children.
- * Assist the station leader as needed.
- * Make sure the children use tools and equipment in a safe manner.
- * Talk to the church school superintendent or coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about the children in your care.
- * If your group does not use the Gathering Time activities, consider them as suggestions for discussions with the children in your group as they arrive each week.

Greet the Children

Help with nametags.

Thank the children for remembering to bring their offerings. Have the children place their offerings in the offering basket.

Take attendance. Note any children who are absent. Make plans to send absent children a note or card. Record names, addresses, and phone numbers of any children who are attending for the first time, and plan to call them or to send a welcoming card.

Read the **Talk Tips** in each of the station plans and support the station leader in helping the children explore the ideas of the unit.

CHECK YOUR FACTS

- In Isaiah’s prophecy, a sign will be given that will come from God through a young woman, or a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- The young woman will have a son. The sign is the child himself.
- The child will be called *Immanuel*, a Hebrew name meaning “God with us.” (The Greek name in the New Testament is *Emmanuel*.)
- The Messiah’s coming will be a royal birth because authority will rest upon his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor (our advocate with God); Mighty God (God’s representative on earth); Everlasting Father (eternal or never-ending presence); Prince of Peace (freedom from turmoil).
- The Messiah will be born from the family line of David. David, the second and greatest of Israel’s kings, was the youngest son of Jesse. Jesse was the son of Obed, grandson of Ruth and Boaz.



- ❑ The Messiah will turn darkness into light. (Isaiah 9:2)
- ❑ The people of Judah were living in a time of war and great suffering. They were looking for a sign to give them hope. The promise of a Messiah was like a light in their darkness.
- ❑ *Messiah* means “anointed one,” one sent by God to save others.
- ❑ The Spirit of the Lord will give the Messiah wisdom; understanding; counsel; might; and, above all, knowledge from and of God. The Messiah will serve with righteousness, faithfulness, and justice and will bring peace to all.
- ❑ Isaiah prophecies are forward looking, envisioning a new creation where God’s purpose is at last fulfilled and where “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).
- ❑ Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the fulfillment of prophecy.
- ❑ Prophets spoke for God and
 - inspired others to preach the word of God;
 - were inspired to speak God’s message of promise, purpose, and judgment;
 - saw God at work in all things, even misfortunes;
 - used specific events to proclaim God’s will and purpose;
 - acted as the moral conscience of the community;
 - were an important element in Israelite life;
 - critiqued the culture of their day;
 - viewed all aspects of life in light of God’s judgment;
 - tried to awaken people to the reality of sin;
 - proclaimed what lay ahead if lives continued on the same course;
 - functioned as social critics, foretellers, proclaimers of the future.

STAFF MEETING

Ask volunteers to read Isaiah 7:14; 9:2; 9:6; 11:1-9.

Ask: How do you think Isaiah’s hearer’s interpreted his prophecies?

How do you think the generations before Jesus interpreted the prophecies?

How have Christians interpreted these prophecies?

Say: Through Isaiah God promised a Messiah, a savior who would help and care for God’s people as a shepherd cares for sheep. This promise filled the people with hope. The people of Israel looked to the promise of the Messiah’s coming with great anticipation. They were living in a time of great strife and unrest and longed for peace and hope. The promise of a Messiah was like a light leading them out of darkness.

Resources

Bible

Optional:

Isaiah CD

The Faith We Sing
hymnal

“The Peaceable
Kingdom” (pp. 80-81)



STATIONS AT A GLANCE

Stations	Focus	Preferences	Activities
Art Children will learn the Bible story through art experiences.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Visual Physical Logical Social	Silhouette Art Light Prints Neon Prints Scherenschnitte
Computer Children will learn the Bible story through computer experiences.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Visual Verbal Logical Independent	Labels for a Mission Project Illustrated Scriptures Say Your Prayers With Li'l Angelina HeavenWord Children's Bible Crossword Remembering Isaiah Trivia
Cooking Children will learn the Bible story through experiences with food preparation.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Physical Social Logical	Star Salad Roots and Vines Sculptured Bread Stained-Glass Prophecy Cookies
Game Children will play a series of learning games.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Physical Logical Social	Promises Trust Me A Promise Is a Promise Promise Scavenger Hunt Peaceable Kingdom Flashlight Frolics
Music Children will learn the Bible story through musical experiences.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference: Musical Physical Social	Get Ready People in Darkness Handel Hot Potato The Peaceable Kingdom Parade Waiting Dance
Science Children will learn the Bible story through science experiences.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Visual Physical Logical Independent	Oil of Honor and Blessing The Light of Life Paper That Grows Mirror, Mirror Light and Color Camera Obscura
Storytelling Children will retell the Bible story.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Visual Physical Social	Isaiah Glow Puppets Isaiah the Prophet Origami Puppets Peaceable Kingdom
Video Children will hear and see the Bible story.	Station focus: Long before Jesus was born, people hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus, the fulfillment of that promise, was God's way of connecting hope and peace to God's people.	Learning preference Visual Verbal Social	The Gifts of Christmas Martin the Cobbler Lights, Camera, Action From Darkness Into Light Select Your Own Video

Resources

Plan Ahead Supplies

Bibles	<input type="checkbox"/> large piece of dark material or paper <input type="checkbox"/> candles or lamps <input type="checkbox"/> white lunch-size paper bags <input type="checkbox"/> sand or cat litter <input type="checkbox"/> votive candles <input type="checkbox"/> black liquid tempera paint	<input type="checkbox"/> filmstrip projector or lamp <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> paintbrush <input type="checkbox"/> white construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> silhouettes <input type="checkbox"/> Design and Print Blueprints Printable™ <input type="checkbox"/> dark construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> shallow pan	<input type="checkbox"/> neon sidewalk chalk <input type="checkbox"/> gold or silver glitter <input type="checkbox"/> shirt boxes <input type="checkbox"/> thin, black paper <input type="checkbox"/> shallow pan <input type="checkbox"/> matches <input type="checkbox"/> glue <input type="checkbox"/> scissors	
Bibles word processing software <i>HeavenWord Children's Bible</i> CD-ROM <i>Say Your Prayers With Li'l Angelina</i> CD-ROM <i>Kid Pix Deluxe 3</i> CD-ROM <i>Crossword Studio</i> or similar software <i>iLumina Gold</i> or <i>iLumina Gold Premium</i> CD-ROM	<input type="checkbox"/> computer <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> index cards	<input type="checkbox"/> labels <input type="checkbox"/> baby bottles		
Bibles <i>God's Love Is Like</i> by Ray Buckley <i>Let's Make a Jesse Tree</i> by Darcy James (optional) "The Jesse Tree" (p. 42)	<input type="checkbox"/> root vegetables or pictures of root vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> vine vegetables or pictures of vine vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> grater	<input type="checkbox"/> fruit with stars inside (apples, bananas, star fruit) <input type="checkbox"/> Dole Cosmic Pineapple Fun Shapes <input type="checkbox"/> plastic knives and spoons	<input type="checkbox"/> ingredients for recipes <input type="checkbox"/> star cookie cutters <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pins <input type="checkbox"/> sealable plastic bags <input type="checkbox"/> plastic knife	
Bibles Isaiah CD "God's Promises" (p. 52) animal picture worksheet (p. 53) "Sneaky Peek" cards (p. 51)	<input type="checkbox"/> posterboard or large sheets of paper <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> beachball <input type="checkbox"/> whistle <input type="checkbox"/> noisemakers <input type="checkbox"/> blindfolds	<input type="checkbox"/> rubber bands <input type="checkbox"/> two tables <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard with different colors front and back <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> index cards	<input type="checkbox"/> flashlights <input type="checkbox"/> craft sticks <input type="checkbox"/> black construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> brown craft paper (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> a crèche (optional)	
Bibles <i>The Give-Away</i> by Ray Buckley (optional) Isaiah CD <i>Isaiah</i> sheet music <i>Isaiah</i> lyric transparencies	<input type="checkbox"/> construction paper or old wallpaper books <input type="checkbox"/> nativity scenes or crèches from different countries <input type="checkbox"/> tennis ball	<input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> scarfs or crepe paper streamers <input type="checkbox"/> instruments such as sand blocks, triangles, or sticks	<input type="checkbox"/> picture of Handel (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> animal masks (optional)	
Bibles Isaiah CD "The Jesse Tree" (p. 72)	<input type="checkbox"/> plants <input type="checkbox"/> pictures of plants and animals <input type="checkbox"/> flashlight <input type="checkbox"/> film canisters <input type="checkbox"/> plastic coffee stirrers <input type="checkbox"/> a variety of oils (see station)	<input type="checkbox"/> almond or vanilla extract <input type="checkbox"/> orange or other flavorings <input type="checkbox"/> shoe box lid <input type="checkbox"/> dirt <input type="checkbox"/> grass seed <input type="checkbox"/> foil or plastic wrap	<input type="checkbox"/> cardboard <input type="checkbox"/> baking utensils <input type="checkbox"/> wire or window screen <input type="checkbox"/> eggbeater <input type="checkbox"/> liquid laundry starch <input type="checkbox"/> clean rag <input type="checkbox"/> shoe boxes	<input type="checkbox"/> small flower seeds <input type="checkbox"/> small, flat mirror <input type="checkbox"/> cotton balls <input type="checkbox"/> color filter slides <input type="checkbox"/> flat black spray paint
Bibles Isaiah CD "Isaiah the Prophet" (p. 82) "The Peaceable Kingdom" (pp. 80-81)	<input type="checkbox"/> video recorder <input type="checkbox"/> VCR/television <input type="checkbox"/> paper bags <input type="checkbox"/> small cereal boxes	<input type="checkbox"/> felt or construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> paper squares in different colors	<input type="checkbox"/> pallet <input type="checkbox"/> yarn <input type="checkbox"/> easel <input type="checkbox"/> flashlights	
Bibles Isaiah CD <i>The Friendly Beasts</i> by Sharon McGinley-Nally <i>The Gift of Christmas</i> <i>Martin the Cobbler</i> <i>Fantasia 2000</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> VCR <input type="checkbox"/> DVD player <input type="checkbox"/> television <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> clear acetate <input type="checkbox"/> half-gallon milk cartons	<input type="checkbox"/> permanent fine-tip markers <input type="checkbox"/> flashlight <input type="checkbox"/> ruler <input type="checkbox"/> white paper <input type="checkbox"/> drawing charcoal		



These resources
may be ordered through
Cokesbury (1-800-672-1789)
and other Christian bookstores
or online through
www.Cokesbury.com
(unless noted otherwise).

Staff Meeting

- 9780687090549 *The Faith We Sing* hymnal. \$12.00.

Computer Station

- 9781889855257 *HeavenWord Children's Bible* CD-ROM. \$29.95.
- 519682 *Kid Pix Deluxe 3* CD-ROM. \$23.00.
- 9781414311586 *iLumina Gold Premium* CD-ROM. \$89.99. (If you already have *iLumina Gold*, you can easily use that version.)
- X513909 *SFW Crossword and Word Search* CD-ROM (set contains *WordSearch Studio: Bible Edition* CD-ROM). \$28.00.
- 9781563717291 *Say Your Prayers With L'il Angelina* CD-ROM. \$12.00.

Creative Cooking Station

- 9780687056262 *God's Love Is Like* by Ray Buckley. \$18.00.
- 9780687214396 *Let's Make a Jesse Tree* by Darcy James. \$9.00. (optional)

Music Station

- 9780687071869 *The Give-Away* by Ray Buckley. \$14.00. (optional)
- 9780687097968 *Isaiah CD* (one copy provided with the unit; additional copies \$9.95).
- Isaiah sheet music* (two copies of each song provided with the unit).
- Isaiah lyric transparencies* (one copy of each song provided with the unit).
- 9780778610496 *Handel's Messiah CD* \$11.98.

Storytelling Station

- Copy of "Peaceable Kingdom" painting by Edward Hicks (available at a library, an art store, or the internet).

Video Station

- 9780806633305 *The Friendly Beasts* by John J. Blumen and Karen Blumen. \$7.99.
- 9781571320766 *Francesco's Friendly World: The Gifts of Christmas* DVD. \$14.99.
- 529663 *Martin the Cobbler* DVD. \$9.99.
- Fantasia 2000* DVD (available at video rental stores or at the local library).

Reflection Week

- 9780687015559 *Musical Midnight Miracle*. Value Pak by Gene Grier and Lowell Everson. (children's musical). \$25.00.

Resources are constantly changing and going out of print. Websites are also constantly changing. Although all websites were checked at the time this unit was developed, you should double-check each site to verify that it is still live and that it is still appropriate for children before using it in an activity.

*Go to **www.powerxpress.com** for any updated information and alternate activities.*

Prices subject to change without notice.