



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ISAIAH (pt 1)

REVIEW & HOOK

REVIEW: PROPHETS

We've been learning about God's special messengers, prophets.

Often times, the Israelites would disobey God's laws and worship false gods. Because God loved His people, He sent His prophets to call the people of Israel back to Him.

We started off learning about the prophet ELIJAH.

Then, we learned about how ELIJAH passed the baton to the prophet ELISHA.

We also learned about a prophet who did not want to go where God sent him because he felt the people were just too evil. Do you remember who that is? That's right. Prophet JONAH.

Let's guess who we are going to learn about today ...

HOOK

Play a game where the children have to guess the name of the prophet _ _ _ _ _ (*ISAIAH*)



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STORY (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Isaiah was a prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus was born.

His name means "The Lord Saves". He has also been called the "Prince of Prophets".

How did Isaiah become a prophet? Let's watch this video and find out:

VIDEO (start from 1.12)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpa5TE8tBZI>

In **Isaiah 6:1-8**, Isaiah spoke of how God called him to be a prophet.

[Prepare some simple story props as below to tell the story in an interactive way]

- When God called Isaiah to help him, he gave Isaiah a vision of himself. (A vision is like a dream, except you have a dream when you are sleeping, you see visions when you are awake). Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up. He wore a royal robe that was so long, it filled the temple!
Show a long robe or tie one from the ceiling
- In this temple, Isaiah also saw special angels called seraphs guarding the throne of the Lord. Often we think of angels as sweet and cute figures with wings and halos. These seraphs had six wings! Two wings covered their faces, two covered their feet, and two wings were used for flying.
Get kids to cover their faces with their hands, then their feet, then flap as if flying
- Isaiah heard the seraphs calling, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord! The whole earth is full of his glory."
Lead the children to repeat the phrase "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!" three times, getting louder each time
- Isaiah said that the seraphs' voices were like thunder! They were so loud that the doors shook.
Show me what you might look like if the room was shaking
- And the temple was filled with smoke!
Light a candle and wave the smoke towards the kids
- When Isaiah saw God in the temple, he knew just how special and holy God is! He also saw how different from God he was. He knew he had done sinful things that made God unhappy. And he was afraid. But one of the seraphs flew to the altar and used tongs to take a hot coal and touched Isaiah's mouth with it to make it clean!
You can use a tong/kapit and pretend to touch each child's mouth with a clean sugar cube or a small rolled-up aluminium foil ball
- Then the Lord asked, "Who will go to help me? Who can I send?" *Raise your hand if you think God could send you to help him.* That's exactly what Isaiah did! He said, "Here I am, Lord, send me." Isaiah wanted to help this great and holy God, just as you want to be one of God's helpers.



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LESSON

ISAIAH MEETS THE HOLY GOD

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. (Isaiah 6:3-4)

These words remind us of how mighty and powerful God is. The angels were singing and calling about God's holiness.

Isaiah was scared to see God because he knew he was sinful and God is holy. As Isaiah lived under the Old Covenant, he knew that he could die after seeing God (Exodus 33:20). That's why he cried out, *"Woe to me! I am ruined!"*

However, Isaiah didn't die. The angel (seraphim) took a hot coal from the altar and touched Isaiah's lips. He told Isaiah that his guilt was taken away and his sin was paid for. The live coal didn't cleanse Isaiah; God did.

We were once sinful like Isaiah. But today, under the New Covenant, we don't need to use coal to cleanse us because we are saved by the blood of Jesus! Jesus makes us new and free!

ISAIAH SAID YES

Once his sin was forgiven, Isaiah knew what to do. When God asked, *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"*, Isaiah readily replied, *"Here am I. Send me!"*

Isaiah demonstrated his faith in God by agreeing to do whatever God asked. He agreed to be sent to a people who didn't want to hear God's message, and he continued to speak that message for nearly 60 years!

The people of Israel were very stubborn and kept disobeying God's laws. Isaiah told them about God's judgment and warned them that God would punish them using their enemies (the Assyrians and Babylonians) if they continued to do wrong things.

But, more importantly, Isaiah was a messenger of God's grace. He spoke a lot about the coming Messiah, His salvation, mercy, and compassion, and of how God's promises will never fail. *We will learn more about this next week! So stay tuned!*

Just as Isaiah was willing to be sent and used by God, we can be messengers of God's grace too. We can represent Christ in the way that we live, serve others, and tell others about Him. God can do amazing things when we are willing to let Him work through us. Just as Isaiah did, we can say *"Here I am! Send me!"*



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

MEMORY VERSE

"Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8b

GAME: Coal and tongs relay

Have students line up in two groups for a relay race. One student at a time from each team will run down to the other end of a play area, and use tongs or clothespins to grab small balls of aluminum foil as "coal." Provide a time limit or see which team empties the coal bowl the fastest.

HUDDLE TIME

Share praise and prayer points.



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MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ISAIAH (pt 2)

REVIEW

REVIEW: PROPHETS

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We started off learning about the prophet ELIJAH.

Then, we learned about how ELIJAH passed the baton to the prophet ELISHA.

We also learned about a prophet who did not want to go where God sent him because he felt the people were just too evil. What's his name? That's right. Prophet JONAH.

Do you remember who we learned about last week? Yes, it's prophet ISAIAH!

We learned about how God called Isaiah to be His messenger. And Isaiah replied: *"Here I am. Send me!"*



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MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ISAIAH (pt 2)

LESSON

Isaiah was a prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus was born.

He gave God's people many prophecies. (A prophecy is when God makes a promise about something that's going to happen in the future.)

Part of Isaiah's prophecies was to warn the people of Israel that God would punish them using their enemies (the Assyrians and Babylonians) if they continued to do wrong things.

But Isaiah was also a messenger of God's grace. A lot of his prophecies were about how God would send someone perfect to rescue the world from sin. Who is this rescuer? *Jesus*

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

Let's take a look at some of Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus.

[use creative ways to introduce these prophecies to the kids]

Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah told the people ...

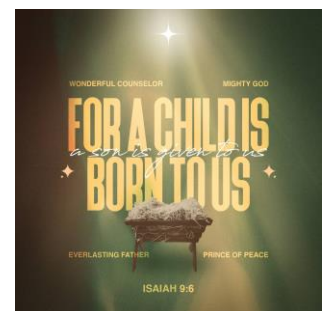
Who Jesus is (Isaiah 9:6)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



How Jesus would be born (Isaiah 7:14)

"... the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')."



What He will do (Isaiah 61:1)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,

for the Lord has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted

and to proclaim that captives will be released

and prisoners will be freed.





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MESSENGERS OF GOD'S GRACE: ISAIAH (pt 2)

That Jesus would be rejected (Isaiah 53:2b-3)

*"There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,
nothing to attract us to him.*

*He was despised and rejected — a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.
We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised,
and we did not care.*



That Jesus would take our sin & sickness (Isaiah 53:5-6)

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.



That Jesus would die for us willingly (Isaiah 53:7)

*"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was
led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He
opened not His mouth."*



Isaiah had many, many more prophecies about the coming Messiah. And Jesus fulfilled every one of them. The odds of that is amazing.

God promised through Isaiah that He will send a Rescuer to bring His people back to Him. And God's promises never fail!

VIDEO

Isaiah: God's Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-hZA0f0RH8>



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

GAME: Lesson review

If you are using images for each prophecy, print them out. Can hide around the room, play a matching game (e.g. match pix with verse), or memory game (e.g. find the same pix) etc.

Show each picture and have the kids tell you what the prophecy was about.

Can also prepare a poster about **Isaiah's Prophecies about Jesus**. Kids can stick the pictures on the poster after game.

HUDDLE TIME

Share praise and prayer points.



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Do you remember who we learned about last week? Yes, it's prophet ISAIAH!

We learned about how God called Isaiah to be His messenger. And Isaiah replied: *"Here I am. Send me!"*

We also learned about the many prophecies Isaiah made about Jesus ... 700 years before Jesus was born on earth!

Prophet ISAIAH lived during the last years of the northern kingdom and during the reigns of four kings of Judah: Uzziah (Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. (Isaiah 1:1)

Today, we'll look at some of Isaiah's interaction with King Hezekiah.

HOOK

Bring a clock with hands and show it the children. Ask them how the clock moves — does it move forward, and (demonstrate by turning the hands to reflect a later time), or backwards (turn it backwards)? Does time go backwards? It doesn't, but there was one day it did.



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STORY

KING HEZEKIAH

When Hezekiah became the King over Judah, he had lots of work to do. Hezekiah did not want to be a bad king like his father. When Hezekiah's father was king, he let the people build idols and worship false gods. The people had even started worshipping the bronze snake on a pole that Moses had built years before when the people of God were in the wilderness.

Hezekiah loved God and wanted to obey him. He wanted everyone in Judah to follow God, so he tore down all the idols. He broke the bronze snake into pieces so the people could not worship it.

ASSYRIAN ATTACK (Isaiah 36-37)

When King Sennacherib of Assyria attacked the city of Jerusalem, the people were frightened. (Not long before this, he had attacked the northern kingdom of Israel and carried all of the people away to Assyria as slaves.)

King Hezekiah took money from the treasury and treasures from the temple and sent it to King Sennacherib. Hezekiah thought that this would make King Sennacherib stay away. It was a good plan, but it did not work.

The Assyrian army came to attack Jerusalem again. The Assyrians stopped outside the city and talked to the people waiting at the city wall. "Your King Hezekiah is stupid if he thinks Judah can stand up against the mighty nation of Assyria! Don't listen to your king. Come over and join our side."

King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord and asked for His help. He sent men to ask the prophet Isaiah for help. Isaiah sent back the messengers with this message: "Don't worry, Hezekiah, the Assyrians will go home." Hezekiah felt better when he heard the word from Isaiah.

But the Assyrians weren't going home yet! Hezekiah received a letter from King Sennacherib's messengers stating that Assyria would not stop attacking Jerusalem. Hezekiah went to the temple to pray again. If Isaiah said that the Assyrians were supposed to leave, why were they still there?

Finally, Hezekiah received another message from the prophet Isaiah: "Don't worry, Hezekiah. The Lord will protect you. King Sennacherib will not enter this city. The Lord will defend Jerusalem. Like He said before, the Assyrians will go home!"

Hezekiah knew that the Lord had heard his prayer. God knew that Judah was in trouble, and he was going to help His people.

During the night, an incredible thing happened! The angel of death came and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. King Sennacherib could not believe it! He quickly retreated and returned his army to the Assyrian city of Nineveh. Not long after that, Sennacherib was killed by two of his own sons.

It was just as the prophet Isaiah said. God protected his people. The Assyrian army left Jerusalem.



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ILLNESS (Isaiah 38:1-8)

One day, King Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He was suffering from some sort of boil that was poisoning his whole body.

The prophet Isaiah went to him and said, "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, "Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

The Lord heard Hezekiah's prayer. He told Isaiah, "Go and tell Hezekiah, that I have heard his prayer and seen his tears; I will add 15 years to his life".

Hezekiah asked God for a sign. Isaiah told him "This is the Lord's sign to you that the Lord will do what he has promised: I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz". So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down.

Isaiah told the king's servants, "Make an ointment from figs and spread it over the boil, and Hezekiah will recover." Hezekiah recovered.

After his recovery, the king praised God for healing him and he told God, "In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back." (Isaiah 38:17)

PRIDE & DOWNFALL (Isaiah 38:1-8) — for older kids, to round up the life of Hezekiah

Unfortunately, King Hezekiah became proud and boasted about his wealth and showed all his treasures to envoys from the King of Babylon (Israel's enemy). Because of that, God sent a message through Isaiah that one day, everything King Hezekiah had, including some of his sons, will be carried off to Babylon.

And sadly, this too came to pass, like Isaiah's prophecies before that.

VIDEOS

Hezekiah & Isaiah (pt 1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-c8lby_I_Y

Hezekiah & Isaiah (pt 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfSx0g0kjXg>



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LESSON

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

Making time go backwards is impossible. But nothing is impossible with God. In Luke 1:37, the angel Gabriel told Mary that *"For with God, nothing will be impossible"* when she asked how, she as a virgin could become pregnant with baby Jesus.

There are people who have been healed of diseases that doctors said there is no cure, or people who were doing badly in their studies managed to improve and pass their final exams when they asked the Lord for help and trusted in him to help them (share your own testimony or the testimony of another person). If you have a very difficult problem you can't see how it can be solved, give it to God and remember- He is God, with him, nothing is impossible. If God loves you enough to give up his beloved son, Jesus to suffer and die for you, he surely loves you enough to help you.

THE LORD HEALED HEZEKIAH

Hezekiah's healing was a foretaste of what Jesus would come to do for all of us.

Isaiah prophesied (Isaiah 53: 5) that Jesus *"was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us."* Jesus was badly beaten until all the skin was gone. Imagine how painful that was. By right, the criminals who were beaten would not have to die on the cross, and if the criminals had to die on the cross, they will not be beaten. Jesus was beaten though he had to die on the cross. God allowed this so that by his wounds (stripes), we are healed!

This is a lesson about grace. God's promise of extended life to Hezekiah was a gift of His grace—to Hezekiah, to Isaiah, and to us. He promises us eternal life, extended forever, not just for 15 years. Just as God kept His promise to Hezekiah long ago, He will keep His promises to us today.

PRAISING GOD

Hezekiah praised God for healing him saying, *"In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back"*. (Isaiah 38:17)

Prophet Isaiah also praised God, saying *"Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago."* (Isaiah 25:1)

Let's praise God for he is good and for all he has done for us. He loves us and is always with us.



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

HUDDLE TIME

Spend some time praising God together.