



Advent 1: Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child

Lesson Aim: To know God promised to send His Son to us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Isaiah 9:2-3, 6

What He Has Done: God told Isaiah the promise of the coming child.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Unit 10: The Promised One			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child, Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	God told Isaiah the promise of the coming child.	To know God promised to send His Son to us.
49	Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary, Luke 1:26-38	God promised Mary that she would give birth to His Son, Jesus.	To know Jesus is the Son of God.
50	Advent 3: The Promised Son Is Born, Luke 2:4-7	God fulfilled His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.	To know God keeps His promises.
51	Advent 4: Shepherds See God's Promised Son, Luke 2:8-20	God sent the angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus, the promised Savior.	To praise God as the shepherds did when they saw baby Jesus.
52	Wise Men Knew God's Promise, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem where they saw God's promises fulfilled.	To know promises from God are found in the Bible.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Philippians 4:4-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for keeping Your promise to send us Your Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Prepare the hearts of the children to celebrate the fulfillment of Your promise. Amen."

WHAT ABOUT SANTA?

Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas, but not every family includes Santa in their celebration. To honor parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect children's focus to celebrate the reason for Christmas, the gift of God's Son.

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a baby
		Coloring Center: Isaiah's Message	Coloring pages of Isaiah sharing a message with the people, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: God's Promise	Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: Baby Jesus	Baby doll, basket, baby blanket, items for a baby's care
		Nativity Center: Jesus Is Coming	Nativity set, Christmas praise music
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Away in the Manger" "Silent Night" "Joy to the World" Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks to the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "His One and Only Son" "The Lord Is Faithful" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "I Bring You Good News" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 48
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Isaiah 9:6a Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Baby Jesus	Small paper cup (uncoated), wooden ice cream spoon or half of a large craft stick, solid-colored fabric, raffia or hay, label, permanent marker, tape or glue
		Game: Isaiah the Messenger	Baby doll wrapped in a blanket
		Game: Pin the Heart on the Tree	Green and red sturdy paper, tape
		Snack: Promises from God	Rolled or cone-shaped snack (Bugles snacks, roll of cheese, turkey, or fruit leather)
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 48
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	None
	Up to 15	Craft: Advent Crown Wreath	See craft.
	Up to 10	Game: Pass the Gift	Wrapped gift box (with lid), baby Jesus doll, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	Game: Give Thanks Bubbles	Bubbles, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about events surrounding Jesus' birth

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God of Peace

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a baby. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a baby help you remember God promised to send a special baby.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: ISAIAH'S MESSAGE

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Isaiah sharing a message with the people, crayons

DO

Children color the picture while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will hear a story about the message God gave to a man named Isaiah. God told Isaiah to tell people that He promised to send His Son Jesus to us as a child. Everything Isaiah told us about God's promise came true. Jesus came to earth as a baby. When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (Christmas.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD'S PROMISE

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about God's promise. Encourage children to make baby Jesus with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

A promise is something we tell someone we will do. At Christmas, we celebrate a very special promise God made to us. Do you know what that promise is? (God's Son Jesus would be born.) God kept His promise and gave us the greatest gift of all by sending His Son Jesus to us. Who can tell me about the day Jesus was born? (Children respond.) If you have cookie cutters that are related to the Christmas story, ask the children how each cookie cutter fits into the story.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: BABY JESUS

SUPPLIES

Baby doll, basket, baby blanket, items for a baby's care

DO

Children play in the center while taking care of the baby.

TALK ABOUT

Soon, we will celebrate Christmas. Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas day? (Jesus.)
Jesus came to earth as a baby. He would have needed his Mom and Dad to care for him just like any baby. Can you use this baby doll to show me how they would have cared for baby Jesus?
Allow children to take turns caring for the baby. **What do babies need?** (Food, bottle, sleep, love, etc.)

NATIVITY CENTER: JESUS IS COMING

SUPPLIES

Nativity set, Christmas praise music

DO

Play the Christmas praise music while the children play with the nativity set.

TALK ABOUT

Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas day? (Jesus.) Ask the children to tell you each figure is in the nativity set. Encourage them to tell you the story of Jesus' birth.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good."	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm.
Psalms 118:1a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God of Peace

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



What are you thankful for? (Children respond.) **Let's pray and thank God for all those things.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, We thank You for all the people and things You have given us. You have been so good to us. Amen.**



Let's thank God by praising Him with our voices as we give our offerings. Sing: "His One and Only Son" while collecting the offering.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: The Promise Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Today, we light the Promise Candle to remember God promised to send His Son Jesus to us as a child. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah told us about that promise. Light the first candle on the Advent Wreath.



Everything Isaiah told us about God's promise came true. Let's thank God for keeping His promise by sending His Son to us. Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful."



Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about the promise of God's Son.

Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 48.



God kept His promise and gave us the greatest gift of all by sending His Son Jesus to us. Our Bible Memory Verse tells us to thank God for being so good to us. Let's practice it together. Practice a few times with the motions.

"Give thanks to the Lord

(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice.

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

for He is good."
Psalm 118:1a

(good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord."



God promised to send a special child

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Isaiah 9:6a, picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Keep the baby covered by the blanket. Keep it hidden. **I have something special to show you today. I promise to show it to you before I share our Bible story. Do you know what a promise is?** (Children respond.) **A promise is something we tell someone we will do. We might promise to pick up our toys or to go to bed when we are told. Do you know who always keeps His promises?** (God.)

Today, we will hear how God told a man named Isaiah that He promised to send a special baby. Can you guess who that baby was? (Jesus.) **That reminds me; I promised to show you what I brought, didn't I?** Put the baby on your lap but keep it covered. **Can you guess what it is?** (A baby.) Show the baby to the children. If you have time, let them take turns holding the baby. **This baby doll reminds me that all babies are special. Christmas celebrates the birth of a very special baby—baby Jesus. Let's listen to our story.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Isaiah 9:6a.



WATCH THE WORD: ISAIAH 9:2-3, 6

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **There once was a man named Isaiah,**
- **Who lived in the days of old.**
- **God gave him a promise.**
- **Here is what he was told:**

- **I will give My only Son**
- **To this world one day.**
- **He will bring them life and light.**
- **Here is what they will say:**

- **For unto us a child is born;**
- **To us a Son is given.**
- **His name will be the Prince of Peace,**
- **And the Mighty God of heaven.**

God told Isaiah a special baby would be born. Who was that special baby? (Jesus.) **Jesus is God's Son. Who was God's Son given to?** (Us!)



Passing on God's promise

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BABY JESUS

Purpose: To remind children that Isaiah told of God's promise to send a special baby.

Supplies: Small paper cup (uncoated), wooden ice cream spoon or half of a large craft stick, solid-colored fabric, raffia or hay, label, permanent marker, tape or glue

Prepare: With a permanent marker, draw baby Jesus' face on the round end of the wooden spoon or craft stick. Cut the cup in half (from the rim to the base) to be the manger. Each cup can be used for two crafts. From cloth, cut a 2-inch square for baby Jesus' blanket. On the label, print:

Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6

Optional: Glue soft yarn as Jesus' hair. Color the cup brown to look like wood.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Lessons 48-52 Craft: This craft is the first in a set of five crafts appearing in Lessons 48-52. Together, they will create a Nativity scene for each child. Remind the children to keep their baby Jesus craft in a special place at home, because in the coming weeks, they will add other people from Christmas story.

Directions:

1. Children color the cup while the teacher/helper assists each child with the remaining steps.
2. Wrap the blanket around the baby and secure with tape or glue.
3. Place the label on the side of the cup.
4. Lay the cup on its side as a manger.
5. Glue some raffia or hay into the manger.
6. Place baby Jesus on the hay in the manger.

Craft Discussion:

- **God made a very special promise to Isaiah. He promised someone would be born. Who was it?** (A child, baby Jesus.)
- **Whose Son is baby Jesus?** (God's Son.)
- **Isaiah was one of God's special messengers. He told others that God had promised to send His Son. You can tell others God promised to send baby Jesus, too!**
- **At home, tell someone the Christmas story while you act it out with baby Jesus. Keep your baby Jesus craft in a special place. Next time, we will make the angel Gabriel, so you can show and tell even more of the Christmas story to others.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: ISAIAH THE MESSENGER

Purpose: Children will remember that Isaiah delivered God's message about a special baby.

Supplies: None

Isaiah was one of God's special messengers. That means he told other people what God told him. Isaiah shared with them God's promise that a baby would be born. God made that promise 700 years before Jesus' birth. It came true when baby Jesus was born! Let's take turns pretending to be Isaiah and sharing God's message.

Directions:

1. The children are God's people and at one end of the room. Have a helper stay with them. Stand at the other end of the room.
2. Choose one child to be Isaiah. Call him or her to come to you.
3. Whisper to Isaiah, **Tell God's people He says, "A child is born."**
4. Isaiah walks back to God's people.
5. The helper leads God's people in saying, **"What is God's promise?"**
6. Isaiah says, **"A child is born!"**
7. Isaiah sits with God's people.
8. Play until each child has a turn as Isaiah.

GAME: PIN THE HEART ON THE TREE

Purpose: In this version of the game, "Pin the Tail on the Donkey," children prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

Supplies: Green and red sturdy paper, tape

Prepare: From sturdy green paper, cut the shape of a large tree. From sturdy red paper, cut a heart shape for each child as tree ornaments. Before class, hang the paper tree on the wall at the children's eye level.

Teacher Tip: Instead of hanging ornaments, cut out and hang Christmas decorations traditional to your area. If families in your area do not typically prepare for Christmas, ask children how they prepare for birthday parties or how their families celebrate Christmas.

What is your favorite thing to do on your birthday? (Children respond.) **Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas day?** (Jesus' birthday.) **How do you like to celebrate Christmas?** (Children respond.) **Let's play a party game to decorate this tree with hearts. The hearts show Jesus we love Him. Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday together!**

Directions:

1. Give the first child a heart ornament with a piece of tape secured to the back.
2. **How does your family get ready to celebrate Christmas?** (Child responds.)
3. Briefly spin the child in a circle, then face him or her toward the tree.
4. Child keeps eyes closed while placing his or her heart ornament on the tree.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: PROMISES FROM GOD

Purpose: Children will eat a rolled-up snack and discuss Isaiah's message from God.

Snack Suggestion: Rolled or cone-shaped snack (Bugles snacks, roll of cheese, turkey, or fruit leather)

Isaiah told God's promise to the people. Let's enjoy a snack we can use to announce that promise. Hold your rolled (or cone-shaped) snack next to your lips like a trumpet and say, "A child is born," through your snack!

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Have you ever made a promise to someone?** (Children respond.) **Did you keep your promise?** (Children respond.)
 - **Did you know God keeps all His promises?** (Children respond.)
 - **Who was the special child God promised to send?** (His Son Jesus.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 118:1a	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ISAIAH 9:2-3, 6

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **There once was a man named Isaiah,** (Hold up one finger.)
- **Who lived in the days of old.** (Clasp hands.)
- **God gave him a promise.** (Point both index fingers to heaven.)
- **Here is what he was told:** (Cup hand around ear to listen.)
- **God will give His only Son** (Point both index fingers to heaven.)
- **To this world one day.** (Point both index fingers to ground.)
- **He will bring them life and light.** (Point both index fingers to heaven.)
- **This is what they will say:** (Cup hands around mouth to speak.)
- **For unto us a child is born;** (Palm facing down, pat the air, as if patting a child's head.)
- **To us a Son is given.** (Pretend to cradle a baby in your arms.)
- **His name will be the Prince of Peace,** (Hold heart.)
- **And the Mighty God of heaven.** (Flex arm muscles.)

CRAFT: ADVENT CROWN WREATH

Purpose: Children work together to create an Advent crown wreath.

Supplies: Poster board or sturdy paper, craft decorations, gold paint (or gold foil, gold wrapping paper, etc.), four tall gold candles, four candleholders, one gold dinner plate or plate wrapped in gold foil or paper, stapler, glue

Prepare: Cut a 3-inch x 24-inch strip of poster board. Paint the poster board strip gold. Let it dry. Staple the ends to create a circle (crown) shape.

Teacher Tip: Create one wreath for the classroom or individual wreaths for children to take home. The directions for this wreath suggest four candles. Some wreaths add a fifth candle, "the Christ Candle" which is in the center of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Advent means coming. In the four weeks before Christmas, believers use an Advent wreath to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Our Advent wreath is in round; it has no beginning and no end. This reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God. Each week we light a new candle to remind us of part of the Christmas story.

Directions:

1. Decorate the circle with craft decorations.
2. Place the crown on a gold dinner plate or plate wrapped in gold foil or paper.
3. Place the four gold candles in holders evenly along the inner rim of crown.

Optional Flameless Advent Crown Wreaths: (1) Cut candle shapes from sturdy gold or yellow paper. Color the flames red or orange. Attach the candles to the crown with tape. (2) Use battery operated candles.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

GAME: PASS THE GIFT

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Wrapped gift box (with removable lid), baby Jesus doll, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"

Prepare: Place baby Jesus inside the box and close the box lid.

God gives you lots of gifts. One of the things He gives you is people who love you very much. When someone gives something to you, what should you do? (Thank them.) Our Bible Memory Verse tells us we should thank God for the gifts and the people He has given us. It says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle. Give the gift box to one of the children.
2. **What is one thing you thank God for?** (Child responds.)
3. Lead all the children in saying, **"Thank you, God!"**
4. Children pass the gift around the circle. While each child holds the gift, repeat steps 2-3.
5. **Let's see the biggest gift God has given to us.**
6. Choose one child to open the box and discover baby Jesus inside.
7. Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song together as a celebration of thanks to God.

GAME: GIVE THANKS BUBBLES

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bubbles, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us God is good. He is always good to you and me! Together, let's say, "God is good." Lead the children in saying, "God is good." Now, let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song as we have fun with these bubbles. When you catch or pop a bubble, I want you to shout "God is good!"

Directions:

1. Children stand in the play area.
2. While the Bible Memory Verse Song is playing, blow bubbles for the children to catch.
3. Encourage the children to shout **"God is good!"** each time they catch or pop a bubble.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about events surrounding Jesus' birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 48: Advent 1: Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus, create a family Advent Wreath using a circle of greenery and four candles to stand for the four Sundays before Christmas. Light the first candle as the Promise Candle and read Isaiah 9:2-3, 6. Talk about ways your family gets ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for keeping Your promise to send Your Son. Help us prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' birthday. Amen."

PLAY! Isaiah was one of God's messengers. God told Isaiah He promised to send a special baby. Pretend you are Isaiah. Think of a special message about Christmas you can deliver to someone in your family, then find that person and deliver your message!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 118:1a	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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