



# 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.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "A child is born."

## 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. Young children are often very excited about this tradition. To honor all parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect their focus to celebrate the gift of God's Son.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a baby
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "A child is born."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.  <b>Additional Supplies:</b> Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	<b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Give Thanks to the Lord" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "His One and Only Son" "I Bring You Good News" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Away in a Manger"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 48
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Isaiah 9:6a Visual: "Baby Jesus" craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Baby Jesus	Small paper cup (uncoated), wooden ice cream spoon or half of a large craft stick, solid-colored fabric, raffia or hay, permanent marker, tape or glue, label
		<b>Game:</b> Isaiah the Messenger	None
		<b>Game:</b> Pin the Heart on the Tree	Green and red sturdy paper, tape
		<b>Snack:</b> Promises from God	Rolled snack (roll of cheese, ham, or fruit leather)
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 48 Color This Story: "Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Pass the Gift	Wrapped gift box (with removable lid), baby Jesus (doll or "Baby Jesus" craft sample), Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Shout It Out	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Advent Crown Wreath	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about events surrounding Jesus' birth

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



A child is born

## THE 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "A child is born."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

**SIGN LANGUAGE: "A child is born."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>"(A) child"</b>  | With the palm of the right hand facing down and slightly cupped, the hand pats the air a few times as if patting the head of a child.                                 |
| <b>"(is) born."</b> | Place left palm, facing the body, approximately six inches from the chest. Move the right hand and arm away from the body, palm facing down, crossing under the left. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "A child is born," Isaiah 9:6a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God of Peace

## THE WORSHIP

**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.



**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Peace. God brings peace and calmness to our hearts because we know He loves us. He loves us so much that He gave His only Son for us. Let's sing about His gift 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.** Choose a child to assist in lighting the first of the four purple candles on the Advent Wreath.

**Isaiah said, “... a child is born.” That is today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together now.** Review the Whisper Verse together: “A child is born.” Include sign language.

**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 has been so good to us. He kept His promise and gave us the greatest gift of all by sending His Son Jesus to us. Our Bible Memory Verse Song helps us thank Him for His goodness. Let's learn it together.** Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song “Give Thanks to the Lord.”



God promised to send a special child

## THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God gave Daniel a dream about Jesus. Today, we will hear how God told Isaiah that He promised to send a special baby. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Isaiah 9:6.

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

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display the "Baby Jesus" craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **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.**

**Who did God promise to send? (A child.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together, "A child is born."** Include the sign language or hand motions.



**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!) Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Isaiah 9:6a from the teacher's Bible.



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, permanent marker, tape or glue, label

**Prepare:** 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**

**Teacher Tip:** 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.

**Optional:** Children can glue wiggle eyes on baby Jesus' face instead of drawing the eyes. Glue soft yarn as Jesus' hair. Color the cup brown to look like wood.

#### **Directions:**

1. Draw baby Jesus' face on the round end of the wooden spoon or craft stick.
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.)
- **That reminds me of our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **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. That promise came true when baby Jesus was born!**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be Isaiah. The other children are God's people and sit across the room.
2. Whisper to Isaiah, **Tell God's people God says, "A child is born."**
3. Isaiah walks over to God's people.
4. God's people say, **"What is God's promise?"**
5. Isaiah chooses one child to stand up.
6. Isaiah faces him or her and says and signs the Whisper Verse, **"A child is born."**
7. Isaiah sits with God's people and the child who is standing becomes the new Isaiah.
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 snack (roll of cheese, ham, 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 snack next to your lips like a trumpet and say, "A child is born," through your snack!

### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. 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 remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "A child is born."
  - **Who was the special child God promised to send?** (His Son Jesus.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Baby Jesus" craft. Tell someone God promised a special baby would be born. That baby was His Son Jesus!

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Isaiah told God's promise to the people.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Give Thanks to the Lord," as the children color.





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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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;** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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.)



### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

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

### GAME: SHOUT IT OUT

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

**Supplies:** 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!**

**Directions:**

1. Divide the children into two groups. Groups sit on opposite sides of the play area.
2. Teach one group the first part of the verse: **"Give thanks to the Lord..."** Teach the other group the second part: **"...for He is good."**
3. Tell the children one way God has been good to you. Point to each group in order and lead them in jumping up and shouting their part of the verse.
4. Choose a child to stand and share one way God has been good to him or her. The child points to each group to stand and say their part of the verse.
5. Play until each child has a turn.
6. Finish by singing the Bible Memory Verse Song. Challenge children to sing it as loud as they can.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **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.

## **CRAFT: ADVENT CROWN WREATH**

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

**Supplies:** Poster board or sturdy paper, craft jewels or costume jewelry, 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. Each week we light a new candle. 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.**

### **Directions:**

1. Decorate the circle with craft jewels or costume jewelry.
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...*



## 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 the Messenger!" 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!

#### **Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse:**

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