



# Advent 1: Isaiah and the Prince of Peace

**Lesson Aim:** To understand Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God of Peace

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**What He has done:** God gave Isaiah the prophecy about the coming Prince of Peace.

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** John 14:27

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Unit 10: The Promised One			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Isaiah and the Prince of Peace, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	God gave Isaiah the prophecy about the coming Prince of Peace.	To understand Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
49	Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary, Luke 1:26-33, 37-38	God promised Mary she would give birth to His Son Jesus.	To know we can trust God to keep His promises because nothing is impossible with God.
50	Advent 3: John the Baptist, Luke 1:16-17, 41; John 1:29	God sent John the Baptist to point others to the promised Savior.	To challenge children to point others to Jesus.
51	Advent 4: Shepherds See the Promised One, Luke 2:4-18	God sent His Son to bring peace.	To know Jesus brought peace just as God promised.
52	The Story of God and His People, Jeremiah 24:7	God gave us the Bible to tell the story of God and His people.	To understand the Bible is the story of God and His people.

## 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. Many young children are 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.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Pin the Words on the Crown	Large sheet of paper, sturdy paper in four different colors, blindfolds, tape
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Advent wreath <b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "For Unto Us" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Bring You Good News" "For God So Loved the World" "King of Kings" "At the Name of Jesus" "You Will Seek Me" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Joy to the World" "Away in a Manger" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Worship Jamz Christmas by Worship Jamz Shout Praises Kids Christmas by Integrity Media
		<b>Advent Scripture Reading:</b> John 12:46	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 48 The Love Sub script or storybook
		<b>Read the Word:</b> Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
	Up to 25	<b>Christ Connection:</b> John 14:27	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treats—Advent Calendar, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "For Unto Us," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Crown Jewels	Colorful candies
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Peaceful Hearts	Large sheet of sturdy red paper, scissors, markers
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Prince of Peace Crown	Large sturdy yellow paper, magazines, assorted craft items (glitter, beads, sequins, pom-poms, etc.), scissors, glue or tape, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Appearing Angel	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase or poster board, marker
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Toss-A-Verse	Large ball (inflatable beach ball, rubber ball, etc.), permanent marker
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Date with story title or name printed on card

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



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What is the best promise you have ever been given?**

### **GAME: PIN THE WORDS ON THE CROWN**

**Purpose:** Children will experience the advantages of light as they are introduced to Isaiah's prophecy about the metaphorical light Christ's birth would bring to the world.

**Supplies:** Large sheet of paper, sturdy paper in four different colors, blindfolds, tape

**Prepare:** On the large sheet of paper, draw a large picture of a crown. Hang it on a wall at the children's eye level. Using one color of paper per word, cut out enough squares of the same size to write one letter per square for the following words: COUNSELOR, MIGHTY, FATHER, and PEACE.

**Today, we will learn about another message God gave to the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah lived during a time when God's people were very sad and separated from God. Sometimes, the Bible describes sadness and separation from God as walking in darkness. To see how God's people may have felt, let's look at Isaiah's message to them from God by putting it together in the dark.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Divide the children into four teams. Choose one team to take the first turn while the other children remain seated.
2. Have the team stand in a line in front of the crown. Blindfold all the team members.
3. Mix up the letters of the first word: COUNSELOR. Place a loop of tape on the back of one of the letters. Give the 'C' to the first child in line.
4. That child attempts to find and stick the letter onto the crown. Teams that are seated may help verbally direct the child.
5. Giving each team member a letter in the correct order, each child takes a turn. Children can take more than one turn, as needed.
6. When all the letters are posted, children can remove their blindfolds and look at the letters to see how close they came to getting the letters on the crown and spelling a word.
7. Help the team rearrange the letters on the crown to spell: COUNSELOR.
8. Repeat with each team using a new word.

**Which was easier, spelling the words when you were blindfolded and in the dark or after you took the blindfolds off and had light to see? (Spelling words in the light is easier.) God's message was a promise that He would send someone who would be a light for the people. Let's see how this crown and the words "Counselor," "Mighty," "Father," and "Peace" were part of God's wonderful promise.**



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 music as children move to the designated area.



**Today, we worship the God of Peace. God loved the world so much, He sent His Son Jesus as the Prince of Peace to bring peace between God and man. 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah promised there would be a great light and the Prince of Peace would come to us. Sing Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For Unto Us" as the offering is collected.**

**Isaiah and other prophets prepared us for the coming of the Lord. Isaiah told us Jesus would come as a baby. Today, we will begin to prepare our hearts for the celebration of His birth. He is the great light God promised to send. He is the Light of the World.**



### **Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Candle of Light**

**Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath of greenery with gold trim**

**At Christmastime, we get our hearts ready to celebrate the coming of King Jesus by lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath. Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Wreath is round. It has no end, just as God's love for us has no end.**

**Each candle on the Advent Wreath stands for one of the four Sundays before Christmas. Today, we light the first candle of Advent: The Candle of Light. In the Bible, darkness sometimes stands for life separated from God and light stands for God. The prophet Isaiah said that people who walk in darkness will see a great light. Choose a child to light the first candle now. That's what happened when Jesus was born. People who were living separated from God, saw Him come to earth as a baby.**



**Jesus is the great light Isaiah described. Jesus called Himself the Light of the World. As you look at the candlelight, listen to the words of Jesus when He compared Himself to a light. Read John 12:46.**



**Today, we celebrate the fact that God was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah when Baby Jesus was born. Sing: "Joy to the World." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the birth of Christ.**



**Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 48.**



## Isaiah's prophecy: the Prince of Peace

# THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned God told Malachi to tell the people to bring their tithes (one tenth of their riches) into God's house and watch for Him to bless them. God also gave Malachi a prophecy about the coming of the Lord.**

**A prophecy from God is a promise from Him about the future. After the prophet Malachi spoke, there were 400 years without any prophecies. This was known as the 400 years of silence. During this period, many people were watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord that Isaiah had described in his prophecies.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Isaiah lived in Jerusalem.** If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel.



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**As we read Isaiah 9:2, remember that many times in the Bible, darkness stands for living a life separated from God while light stands for God.** Read.

**As we read the prophecies in Isaiah 9:6-7, remember that a government has the authority to protect and rule over its people.** Read.



Connecting prophecies to Jesus

## THE WAY

A prophecy from God is a promise from Him about the future. The Old Testament is filled with prophecies that would be fulfilled by Jesus. A prophecy is fulfilled when it comes true (actually happens). Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." In the Bible, darkness stands for life separated from God. Jesus is like a light to people who are separated from God. Jesus called Himself the Light of the World. Do you think Jesus is the light in Isaiah's prophecy? (Yes.) In a way, Isaiah's prophecy comes true every time someone who is separated from God sees Jesus is the way to be close forever with the Father.

In Isaiah's prophecy, he says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given." Who do you think Isaiah is describing when he tells us about a child born as a son that would one day be given to the world? (Jesus.) 700 years later, in Luke 2:11, an angel announces, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Do you think the angel's words showed Isaiah's ancient prophecy was coming true? (Yes.)

John 3:16 says, "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son." How do these words remind you of Isaiah's prophecy, "unto us a Son is given"? (Children respond.)

What are the four names given to the royal son in Isaiah's prophecy? (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.) Have children raise their hand to vote for their favorite name for God: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

What do you think "Prince of Peace" means? (Children respond.) Romans 5:1b says, "... we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Which prophecy from Isaiah 9:6-7 does this fulfill? ("He will be called Prince of Peace.") Everyone needs to have peace with God, because everyone's wrongdoings are sins against God. Jesus took the punishment for our sins, so we could be at peace and close with God.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

700 years after Isaiah's prophecy about the Prince of Peace, Jesus came and made peace between God and us by taking our punishment on the cross for our sins against God. To all who believe in Him, Jesus gives peace with God, peace with others, and peace of mind without fear during hard times. Let's see what Jesus said about that peace.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: John 14:27. Let's find this scripture. Read John 14:27.

How can knowing this give you a peaceful mind without fear during hard times? (Children respond.) How does Jesus help us live in peace with others? (His Spirit helps us serve and forgive others. He helps us show love, kindness, patience, and self-control.)



# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is an Advent Calendar. Take it home and do the activities with your family each day to get your hearts ready to celebrate Christmas!

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 48 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of what you think God looks like or print and decorate the letters in your favorite name for God: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, or Prince of Peace.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For Unto Us," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: CROWN JEWELS**

**Purpose:** Children are reminded that Jesus was given the name, "Prince of Peace."

**Snack Suggestion:** Colorful candies

**Today, we learned about God's promise to send His Son Jesus to earth. In Isaiah's prophecy about this, what were the four names Isaiah said He would be called?** (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.) **As we talk, let's eat these colorful candies to remind us of the jewels on a crown and let's remember Jesus is the Prince of Peace.**

**Directions:**

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If you could give yourself a name that describes you, what would it be? For example, your name might be "faithful friend" or "leader."**

### **GAME: PEACEFUL HEARTS**

**Purpose:** To know Jesus came to earth to give peace to hearts that have sinned against God.

**Supplies:** Large sheet of sturdy red paper, scissors, markers

**Prepare:** Cut out a large heart from red paper.

**Who did God promise to send?** (His Son Jesus.) **How did Jesus come to earth?** (As a baby.) **Let's see why Jesus came to earth.**

**Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Cut the heart into puzzle pieces, one for each child.
3. Have each child write his or her name on a different puzzle piece. Teacher Tip: If children have the same first name, have them write their first and last names on the puzzle pieces.
4. Mix up the pieces on the floor.
5. One at a time, each child picks up a puzzle piece and reads the name on the piece.
6. The child with the puzzle piece says to the child whose name they read, **"Jesus came to earth for you!"**
7. The child whose name was read, picks the next puzzle piece and repeats steps 5-6.
8. Continue playing until all the puzzle pieces are collected.
9. Challenge the children to put the pieces together.

**What did we make?** (A heart.) **Just like the broken heart puzzle pieces, sin makes our hearts feel broken and separated from God. Jesus is the Prince of Peace who came to earth for each of you. He came to take your sins away so you would be at peace with God and close with Him forever. Jesus gives your heart peace and joy!**



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: PRINCE OF PEACE CROWN**

**Purpose:** To make a crown as a reminder of the Prince of Peace whose birth is celebrated at Christmas.

**Supplies:** Large sturdy yellow paper, magazines, assorted craft items (glitter, beads, sequins, pom-poms, etc.), scissors, glue or tape, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On a large sheet of sturdy yellow paper, print or draw the shape of a crown. You may choose to cut out the crowns for younger children or if your class time is limited. Where children can see to copy, write:

**Jesus is the Prince of Peace  
Isaiah 9:6**

Today, we discovered Isaiah's prophecy from God about a special, royal child that would be born. Who was that child? (His Son, Jesus.) When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (At Christmas.) God sent His only Son as a baby to be the Savior, and the Prince of Peace. He came to give us peace with God and peace in our hearts. Let's make a crown to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Jesus came to earth to give peace to all people. Put a different person on each point of the crown. You can draw pictures of yourself, your family and your friends. You can also cut out pictures of people from around the world to paste on your crown. At home, use your crown as a Christmas decoration to remind everyone who sees it that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

### **Directions:**

1. Cut out the crown.
2. Draw people or add pictures of people from magazines to the crown.
3. On the crown, write: **Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)**
4. Decorate the crown with crayons, markers, and assorted craft supplies.
5. Glue or tape the ends of the crown together.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

### **GAME: APPEARING ANGEL**

**Purpose:** Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

**Supplies:** Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase or poster board, marker

**Prepare:** Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose one of the phrases below. On a dry erase or poster board, draw one line for each letter in the phrase. Include a blank space between each word.
2. Choose a child to guess a letter. If the letter is found in the phrase, write it on every blank where it belongs. If the letter is not in the phrase, draw one part of an angel (Robe, head, hands, feet, smile, eyes, nose, hair, etc.) on another part of the dry erase or poster board.
3. Choose another child to guess a letter.
4. Continue playing until the children have guessed the phrase or until the angel drawing is complete. The goal is to complete the phrase before the angel drawing is completed.
5. After the phrase is revealed, read its meaning below to explain that part of the verse.
6. If time allows, play again using another phrase. Use different phrases each time you play.

#### **Phrase and meaning**

"For unto us a child is born" (Jesus was born as a baby.)

"Unto us a Son is given" (God gave His Son to be our Savior.)

"And the government shall be on His shoulders" (Jesus will one day rule the world.)

"And His name will be called" (There are many names for God.)

"Wonderful Counselor" (The Holy Spirit guides us to do things God's way.)

"Mighty God" (God is so strong that He can do anything.)

"The Everlasting Father" (God is our heavenly Father forever.)

"The Prince of Peace" (Jesus gives us peace with God, and peace in our hearts.)

### **GAME: TOSS-A-VERSE**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

**Supplies:** Large ball (inflatable beach ball, soccer ball, etc.), permanent marker

**Prepare:** Write the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse on the ball.

#### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. One child holds the ball and quickly says the first word of the verse. The child then tosses the ball to another child who says the next word.
3. Continue tossing the ball until the verse is completed.
4. Children may use the verse written on the ball to help them remember the words, but encourage them to learn the verse as they play.

**Option:** Divide into two or more teams. Have teams race against each other to complete the game first.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

**Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.)** God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage God's people who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple after their exile in Babylon. Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah who made sure the temple was rebuilt. Haggai warned them to give careful thought to their selfish ways so they would choose to put God first and rebuild His temple. Zechariah told the people that our power comes not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit. The temple was completed in 516 B.C.

**Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)** Malachi was the last prophet to speak before the birth of Jesus. He gave God's message that the people were robbing God by not bringing their tithes and offerings to Him. What is a tithe? (A tithe is giving one tenth of our riches to God's house.) God challenged the people to tithe and see how God would bless them.

**400 Years of Silence (Circa 400 B.C.-1 B.C.)** Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet to speak before the birth of Christ. This period is known as the 400 years of silence because there were no new prophecies. Over the previous 800 years, God's people had heard many prophecies from God's prophets, including Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Lord and what He would accomplish.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

**Elijah – Malachi:** Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)