

Reality – Bible Lesson for March 22, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

Lesson: Isaiah

- 1. Lesson: Isaiah**
- 2. Scripture:** Isaiah 11:1-9, 40:12-31, 53:1-12
- 3. Memory Verse:** "For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you.'" – Isaiah 41:13
- 4. The Jesus Storybook Bible** – Pages 144 - 151
- 5. Mission Story:** Next week
- 6. Bible Skills:** Game - Top Three
- 7. Materials useful in teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity:** downloaded image of a cross or Jesus on the Cross or a picture of calvary **Prayer/Journaling:** Bibles **Bible Skills Game:** one set of the Bible Book Flash Cards (only Old Testament needed) **Memory Verse Game** – Memory verse cut up into one word segments; bin or hoop; small playground ball

Bible Skills Flash Cards: Top Three

<https://ministry-to-children.com/8-games-books-of-the-bible/>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/books-of-the-bible-games-cards/>

1. Prayer and Welcome Activity: Pray with your children – then introduce the following discussion:

Show your child/children a picture of calvary or of the cross before you begin story time. Ask the kids what this picture means to them. (They should answer - Jesus when He hung on the Cross for our sins.) Tell the kids that today it is easy for us to recognize this as what Jesus did for us, but before Jesus came to earth, people did not know what He was going to be like or what He would do.

Explain to your child/children that the prophet, Isaiah, wrote down a very good description of what Jesus would be like when he came to earth. Tell them we are going to learn about some of the ways that Isaiah described Jesus many hundreds of years before He was born.

2. Bible Story: *(Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud) (Everyone will be reading from the Jesus Storybook Bible today – Pages 144 – 151)*

The prophets in the Bible were messengers from God that reminded God's people of His laws and how He wanted people to love and obey Him. God would talk to the prophet and then the prophet would tell the people what God wanted them to know. We've already learned about several prophets such as Moses, Noah, Samuel and Daniel. Now, we're going to learn about a prophet named Isaiah. He is usually looked upon as one of the greatest Old Testament prophets who wrote one of the greatest Old Testament Books. In the Book of Isaiah, he described the glory of God and His grace.

Over 750 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote that the Messiah was coming! He wrote about His virgin birth, that He would be both God and man, and he wrote about Christ's early life, His sufferings and His resurrection. Isaiah also told about the last days and the new heaven and earth. Isaiah wrote a lot about salvation. His name even means, "Yahweh is Salvation" or, as "The Jesus Storybook Bible" says, "God to the Rescue". His book told people that the Messiah was coming to save all people from their sins. The word "salvation" appears 33 times in the writings from the prophets, and of these, it is written 26 times in Isaiah. In fact, we're going to stop right now and read pages 144 – 151 from "The Jesus Storybook Bible" before we start the rest of our lesson. ***(Read the pages either to the children or have them read them out loud.)***

Isaiah has 66 chapters in it, but, today, we're only going to be reading from three of the chapters. The first part of the book of Isaiah we're going to read from today is in Isaiah 11. During this time in Israel, when the book of Isaiah was written, the people were going through some very hard times because of their disobedience. But Isaiah wrote that God's kingdom would rise by a "shoot coming up from the stem of Jesse and a branch will spring forth from the roots." **(Isaiah 11:1)** The shoot and the branch were a picture of Jesus, the Messiah. The stem was the nation of Israel, which was like the stump of a fallen tree that no longer served God. But from this "fallen tree", God would bring the Messiah. And remember, Isaiah was reporting what God told him to say 750 years before Jesus was born.

Isaiah 11:2 went on to tell us what Jesus would be like – the Spirit of the Lord would rest upon Him and He would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. He would have wisdom, understanding, counsel, and the fear of the Lord. **Isaiah 11:3-5** tell us that Jesus will not judge by what we look like but by what is in our hearts. He will give special care to the poor and needy and he will have righteous judgment for those that do wrong.

Isaiah wrote that Jesus is going to set up a beautiful kingdom for His followers to live in someday. In that kingdom, the wolf and the lamb will live side-by-side; the leopard will lay beside the young goat; the calf, the young lion, and the ox will not be afraid of each other – and a little child will lead them all. Not only will all the animals change the way they react to each other but the way they relate to humans will be changed as well. The cow and bear will live in the pasture together, the lion will eat straw, and the snake will become so harmless, children can play with it. When the earth becomes full of the

knowledge of God, there will be peace and God's creatures will live in harmony with mankind. **(Isaiah 11:6-9)**

Isaiah tells us that God is incomprehensible – that we will never be fully able to understand and know Him completely here on Earth. One way that we can get an idea of what God is like is learning about His attributes – things that are true about God. The entire Bible tells us about God's attributes.

Let's think about the greatness of God...Isaiah wrote that the nations are like a drop in a bucket or dust on scales. Close your eyes and picture the entire world as a huge globe – now picture it as just a tiny drop in a huge bucket or a dust speck being held by God. The people of Israel found this a very comforting thought. Why would knowing God is so big and so beyond our understanding give us comfort? *(pause for responses – possibilities are "He is bigger than our problems, He has complete control over everything in our lives, etc.)* **(Isaiah 40:12-15)** God is all-powerful. We can praise Him and stand in awe of who He is. But we can also be held in His mighty arms and comforted through His great love.

Understanding the greatness of God helps us know that there is nothing in our lives that God doesn't see and there is nothing that God doesn't understand. God didn't just create us; He is also with us each and every day – guiding us through everything we do. **(Isaiah 40:21-26)** God gives us His strength – but He doesn't just pour it on us as we sit around doing nothing. He renews us as we seek Him and rely on Him instead of depending on our own strength. **(Isaiah 40:28-30)**

If we turn our eyes to Jesus, we will, "soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint." **(Isaiah 40:31)** This order of "soar, run, walk" was done for a reason...We will soar in the truth of Jesus, set ourselves on the course to run the good race, and then follow Him on our Christian walk.

We now come to one of the most important chapters in the Old Testament – Isaiah, Chapter 53. In this chapter, Isaiah wrote about the coming Messiah – that He would be a servant who would suffer and be a sacrifice to take away our guilt from sin. He said that Christ would grow up among His own chosen people, the Jews, as a Jew Himself. He would have no majesty to attract people to Him; He would be rejected; He would suffer and be despised, and people would ignore Him and not care about Him. But that would not stop our Messiah from doing what God told Him to do.

People would think that God was punishing Him because He had sinned and not realize that He was completely without sin and He was taking the punishment for our sins! It is how we disobey God that hurts Him. We wander away from God like lost sheep. (Here we are, being compared to sheep again 😊) Sheep do not pay attention to their surroundings. They do not know when there is danger or when they have gotten separated from the flock and become lost. That's why the shepherd is so important. We

are a lot like sheep. We go our own way and forget to stay close to our Shepherd.
(Isaiah 53:1-6)

Isaiah said that the Messiah would be beaten but not open His mouth or say anything. He would have an unfair trial and then be led away to be killed. He would be “assigned a grave with the wicked” by being crucified between two thieves. **(Isaiah 53:7-9)** No one who watched what was happening would realize His death was for them – to save them. But, Isaiah wrote, this was God’s plan all along. By giving up His life as an offering for our sin, the Suffering Servant would give life to us. But He wouldn’t stay dead. God would bring Him back to life and give Him great honor because He willingly took the punishment that sinners deserve. **(Isaiah 53:10-12)**

So, over 750 years after Isaiah prophesied, our Savior came. Jesus stands alone in history as the only one who could have fulfilled the promises made in Isaiah 53. Jesus poured out His soul for us – there was nothing left that He could give. God not only knew Jesus would suffer for us, He planned it. That’s how much He loves us.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. What are some of the qualities of the Messiah that Isaiah talked about? [He would have wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear (awe) of the Lord.]
2. According to Isaiah 11, how will animals and children relate to each other in Christ’s Kingdom? (They will live in peace – without any fear of each other.)
3. What does Isaiah say about the greatness of God? (He is all powerful. There is nothing in our lives that God doesn’t see and there is nothing that God doesn’t understand.)
4. How does Isaiah say we will “move” in our lives when we serve God? (We will fly as high as eagles, run and not get tired, and walk and not grow weak.)
5. Isaiah wrote about how people would react to the Messiah...what are some things God told him to write? (The Messiah would have no majesty to attract people to Him; be rejected, suffer, be despised, people would ignore Him, and people would not care about Him.)
6. What animal are people compared to in the book of Isaiah? (sheep)
7. How did Isaiah describe the trial and crucifixion of Jesus hundreds of years before it actually happened? (That He would be beaten but not open His mouth. He would have an unfair trial and then be led away to be killed. He would be “assigned a grave with the wicked” by being crucified between two thieves.)

8. What did Isaiah say about God's plan for Salvation? (That it was God's plan all along. No one who watched what was happening would realize Christ's death was the perfect plan and it was for them – to save them.)

4. Prayer/Journaling:

Say: Isaiah heard from God and he wrote down what God wanted us to know. We are going to spend the next few weeks asking the question, "How do I hear God speak to me?"

First, let me ask you a few questions: How many people do you think you talk with every day? (allow time for responses after each question) Do you remember everything people tell you? Have you ever wondered how God speaks to you?

Let's think about how God spoke to people in Bible times:

- God spoke to people through the prophets
- God spoke to people through angels
- God spoke to people through dreams
- God spoke to people through their thoughts
- God spoke to people through other people

God wants to speak with you. He wants to tell you things. Are you willing to listen to Him? How do you know what you hear is God speaking? Here are some things to keep in mind as you consider this question:

- God will never tell you anything that goes against who He is.
- God will never tell you anything that goes against what He stands for.
- God will never tell you anything that is not true.
- God will never tell you anything that is not the best for you.

God speaks to us through the Bible. Let's talk about some of the things that the Bible teaches us. How would you answer these questions?

- How should you treat your friends?
- Why should you obey your parents?
- What does God want you to do?
- Why should you pray?

Next week we'll talk more about how God speaks to us - through prayer.

Time for Prayer: Dear God, help me to hear your voice as I read and study the Bible. Please help me to keep You most important in my life. [Let's take time now to

pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

5. Mission Story: Next week

6. Bible Skills: Top Three

Print the "Bible Book Flash Cards" if you don't already have these. (Today we will only be using the books of the Old Testament.)

- Use the printable Bible book flash cards or write the books of the Bible on a stack of index cards (or small pieces of paper) – one book per card.
- Shuffle the deck of Bible book cards & place them in the middle of the circle, face down. We will only be using the books of the Old Testament.
- You and your child/children should take one card and hold it face down.
- On the count of 3, everyone should turn over their card. Whoever's book is closest to the end of the Old Testament gets a point.
- Keep playing until one player has 3 points and declare them the winner.
- Then, work together to quote all of the books of the Old Testament in order.

7. Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – "For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear; I will help you.'" – Isaiah 41:13

Play Memory Verse Basketball –

Print out a memory verse and cut it up so there is one word on each piece of paper. You should have a small playground ball.

Set up a hoop or bin which you and your child/children must aim for. When a goal is made, the player will be rewarded with a word. They have to try to be the first player to get all the words from their memory verse and arrange it in the correct order. Each player gets a shot, if they miss, it goes to the next player.

8. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.

