

## Reality – Bible Lesson for March 22, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Materials useful in teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity:** downloaded image of a cross or Jesus on the Cross or a picture of calvary **Craft:** white, tan or light brown construction paper; two jumbo craft sticks per child; glue sticks; clear tape; yarn or ribbon **Memory Verse Game** – Memory verse cut up into one word segments; bin or hoop; small playground ball **Extra Game:** cotton balls; masking or painter's tape

**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 simplify the story below or you can read it from the Jesus Storybook Bible – 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. 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 learning about 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 they weren't obeying God. 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." 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 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 also told 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.

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

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."*) 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. 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 pray to Him and rely on Him instead of depending on our own strength.

If we turn our eyes to Jesus, we will, "soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint." 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.

Isaiah said that God's Son would be completely without sin and would take the punishment for our sins! It is how we disobey God that hurts Him. We wander away from God like lost sheep. 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 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 crucified between two thieves. 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, Jesus 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.

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. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. What animal are people compared to in the book of Isaiah? (sheep)
5. 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. Bible Application:**

#### **Crafts:**

#### **Elementary: Memory Verse Scroll**



1. Take white, tan, or light brown paper and have the children write the memory verse on it – “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 They can decorate it as they choose.
2. Glue or tape a jumbo craft stick to both ends of the construction paper and let it dry.
3. Roll at both ends and tie with a piece of yarn or ribbon in the center.

**5. 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, a 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.

**6. 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.

### **Extra Game:**

**Sheep Gone Astray – God says we are like sheep that have gone our own way. He gave a message to Isaiah about people being like wandering sheep.**

*(The cotton balls stand for sheep. They are scattered because they have wandered away. The children are the shepherds that will try to gather the sheep into their pens.)*

1. Mark two lines on the floor with masking or painter’s tape – a foot or two from the wall on opposite ends of the room. The area between the wall and the line

are the sheep pens. Scatter many cotton balls (sheep) on the floor between the two sheep pens.

2. Divide the children into two teams.
3. Assign each team a sheep pen. Teams gather in their sheep pens.
4. On your signal, the children get on their hands and knees and, one at a time, blow the sheep (cotton balls) into their team's sheep pen. Children may not touch the sheep with any part of their bodies.
5. After all the sheep are in the pens, each team counts their sheep. The goal is to be the team with the most sheep.