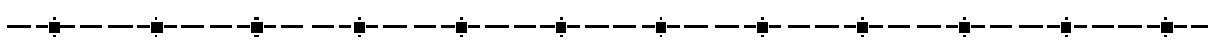


GOD'S BIG PLAN

The Promise!

Isaiah 9:1-7

Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 7:14, 11:1-5, 28:16, 53; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1; Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 15:22



Lesson Goals:
To see that God is omniscient (all knowing).
To see that God always keeps His promises.
To see that God has a very big plan.

Scripture Memory God is no mere human! He doesn't tell lies or change his mind. God always keeps his promises. Numbers 23:19 (CEV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Now, let's review what we have learned so far about God's Big Plan. (Review the previous stories and encourage more students to share.)

Who remembers what a prophet is? (A messenger of God. A person who shares God's message with people.) Can you name any of the prophets we have talked about? (Samuel-who shared God's message with King Saul and who anointed David as king; Elijah-who challenged the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel.)

Samuel and Elijah weren't the only men that God shared His message through. There were many others. Some, like Samuel and Elijah, called the people to turn from their sin and obey God. Others shared about things that would happen in the future, promises from God. How could they know what would happen hundreds of years later? God told them. He knows the past, the present and even the future. God knows everything; He's *omniscient*.

God promised things that would take many years to be completed. What is a promise? (To say that something will happen before it happens or that you will do something before you do it.) How many of you have ever made a promise? (All of us have.) Have you always kept your promises? If you haven't, maybe you forgot or changed your mind or maybe you were lying to begin with, maybe you never meant to keep your promise. Well, God isn't like that. God always keeps His promises! Let's see what God's first promise was. Maybe you'll remember it from the story of Adam and Eve.

READ: Genesis 3:15 - NIV if possible (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Do you remember when God made this promise? It was in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve walked with God. They had just sinned against God. They had listened to Satan's lies. They chose to disobey God by eating from the one tree He had told them not to eat from. Even in punishing them, God made them a promise. One day, one Man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, would crush Satan's head. That promise would save them from the sin they had just tangled us all up in. It was a promise of God's Son, who would die on a cross and make a way for us to walk with God again.

But hundreds of years had passed since God made that promise and He had still not completed it. God was ready, though, to tell them more about the promise. God told several prophets some of those things

that would happen later. God shared with the prophet Isaiah, “The people who are living in darkness will see a great light. . . . A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.” The One who would save His people from their sins would come as a baby! God told Isaiah how this baby would be born. He would be born to a girl who was still a virgin. He wouldn’t be handsome; in fact, people would think He was a nobody, not important at all. But God said He would be called Immanuel, which means “God with us.” This baby boy, who would be born one day, would be God, in a human body.

Through the prophet Isaiah, and other prophets of his time, Hosea and Micah, God shared where the Promised One would come from. He would be born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. He would come out of the country of Egypt and pass through the region of Galilee. God told Isaiah something else that completed a promise He made to King David. God said, “He will rule on David’s throne and over his kingdom.” The Promised One would be the forever king that God had promised David. Even though King Solomon had disobeyed God and the kingdom was now divided, God would still complete His promise to David and He would do it from this very family!

Review:

Let’s review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

God promised to send His own Son to this world, but He wasn’t planning to do it the way anyone else would ever expect the Forever King to come to us. But God’s big plan would indeed happen through His Son, Jesus. The prophet Isaiah had more to say about the Promised One. Isaiah didn’t just tell us about His birth, he also told us why He would be born. “He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on Himself the pain that should have been ours.” He was “pierced because we had sinned . . . He was punished to make us whole again.” Isaiah continued explaining that we act like sheep, always running away and getting lost in things that are bad for us. We do things our own way. But God loves us so much that He sent His One and Only Son to die on the cross carrying all of my sins and all of your sins to “make many people godly because of what He will accomplish.”

The Bible tells us that we are all sinners. We are born into it because of Adam and Eve. They’ve gotten us all mixed up in sin and sin brings death. But God sent His Son to bring us life. While we were still helpless in our sin, God sent Jesus to die in our place. God loved YOU enough to send His One and Only Son. Anyone who believes in the Son can have new life, life forever and ever, just like God’s Forever King. Will you choose Him right now?

**Planning for Next Week
Lesson 23 • Captivity!
Daniel**

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: "Jesus Loves Me"

SHARE: Have you ever made a promise? Maybe you told your mom, "I promise I'll clean my room if you buy me what I want." Or maybe you promised a little brother or sister that they could play with one of your toys if they did something for you first. Do you always keep your promises? It's hard sometimes, and sometimes we forget.

But do you know what? God made lots of promises in the Bible. He promised a man named Isaiah that He would one day send His Son into the world. God was not going to send His Son into the world as some handsome king everyone wanted to follow. Most people wouldn't even pay attention to Him. And God's Son, Jesus, wouldn't come riding in on a beautiful white horse. He would be born as a little baby who needed His mommy to take care of Him. He wouldn't even be born in the most important city. He would be born in little ol' Bethlehem, one of the smallest of all. But Bethlehem was an important place because it was the birthplace of another king, King David. And Jesus would be born to keep God's promise to David of a king from his family on the throne. The Promised One would be the forever king that God had promised David. Even though King Solomon had disobeyed God and the kingdom was now divided, God would still complete His promise to David and He would do it from this very family!

God also promised Isaiah that He was sending His Son to this world to one day hang on a cross. Jesus wouldn't hang on the cross because He wasn't going to do anything wrong. He would hang on the cross because you and I do bad things, sin. God loves us enough to make a way for us to be okay with Him. Sin gets in the way, but God wants us to trust Him and obey Him.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for always keeping your promises. Help me to obey You.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a "Jesse Tree" ornament to remember the memory verse. Draw and color in rainbows. Draw a cloud about the same width as the rainbow and print the memory verse on the cloud. Attach the cloud to the bottom of the rainbow and hang on your "Jesse Tree."
- Keep track of your own promises. Make a list or collage of the promises you have made. Be sure to check them off when completed.
- Decorate your space as if it were Christmas. You might even want a banner or poster that announces "Christmas in June" or whatever the appropriate month is. If you have a replica of a manger, wrap it up in a box and let one of your students unwrap it at the end of the lesson.
- Sing Christmas carols.
- Read Isaiah 11:1-10. Decorate a "Jesse Tree" for the "shoot that sprang from the stem of Jesse" - Jesus. Jesse Trees are traditionally decorated with pictures that represent stories from the Bible that point to Jesus. Try making decorations of the following: Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 3:15), Rainbow (Noah) to remember that God keeps His promises, a ram to remember that God sent a ram to save Isaac (and Jesus to save us), etc. Be creative!
- Play the basketball game "H-O-R-S-E" but spell out the word "P-R-O-M-I-S-E" instead.