

Prophets Give Hope

Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 11:2–6. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask: ***Who are some people you turn to when you feel discouraged or alone?*** (parents, teachers, friends, pastor) Say: ***Sometimes we need people to give us hope when we feel hopeless. The prophets offered hope to the people of Israel.***
- ▶ Ask your child to read the paragraphs on page 139. Ask: ***Why did the people of Israel need hope?*** (They had been waiting centuries for God’s promise to be fulfilled.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Then conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Ask your child to think about group activities they’ve participated in, such as sports or band. Ask: ***What does a coach do?*** (shows us how to work together, encourages us to play well, motivates us) Say: ***The Old Testament prophets were like coaches, encouraging the Hebrew people with their messages from God.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 140. Ask: ***Why was life difficult for the exiled Jews?*** (They were captives and victims of the grave sins of terrorism and torture. They did not know if they would ever return home.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page. ***What was Second Isaiah’s message?*** (God still loved them, would care for them, and lead them home.)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 141. Ask: ***What did early Christians think of when they read Second Isaiah?*** (that Isaiah’s message of hope was fulfilled in Jesus Christ)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: ***Early Christians used the Old Testament to help them understand Jesus.*** Ask: ***What did Isaiah mean when he said these words?*** Discuss your child’s response.

Art Exploration: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a book, magazine, or online a representation of the prophet Isaiah preaching.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the artwork shows the role of the prophets in the Old Testament.
- ▶ Say: ***The words of the prophets are meant to bring us closer to God.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 142. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud Jesus and the Prophecies of Old. Ask: ***Why did Matthew share the words of the prophet Isaiah?*** (Matthew was trying to show the Jews that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Messiah.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to write. Discuss the explanation.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***How many parts make up the Book of Isaiah?*** (three; chapters 1–39, 40–55, and 55–66)
- ▶ Show your child the image of an illuminated page of the Bible you used in Unit 1, Session 1. Have your child choose a verse from the Book of Isaiah, such as “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” Have him or her copy the verse from the Bible and illuminate with a large, colorful opening letter and text surrounded by a colorful border. Display the verse in your home.

Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Together look at page 143. Say: ***We can bring all our needs to God just as we see in the Psalms. There is nothing too big or too small because God loves us unconditionally.***
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Then take turns with your child reading aloud the psalm. Focus on how God responds to us when we are facing difficulties. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Isaiah and the Gospel on page 144. Remind him or her that early Christians used the Old Testament to make connections between God’s promises and how Jesus’ message and life was the fulfillment of those promises.
- ▶ Read aloud Connecting Matthew and Isaiah. Work together to complete the activity. Read aloud both the Old Testament and New Testament passages and discuss each event.

Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Faith Summary on page 145. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity. Allow your child time to write his or her paragraph. Then discuss the person they wrote about.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 146. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer together. Say: ***Your words and actions can bring hope and encouragement to the people you encounter in your life.***