



Use Week of:

Unit 15 • Session 1

Isaiah, Prophet to Judah

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Isaiah 6; 53

STORY POINT: Isaiah told about the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How did God plan to fix what sin broke?
God planned to send Jesus.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

King Uzziah's death marked the end of an era. His reign had been long and prosperous. Uzziah became king when he was 16, and he reigned over Judah for 52 years. Then Uzziah died. Under Uzziah's leadership, God's people had turned away from the promises of God and trusted in the promises of the world around them. God had promised to bless the entire world through Abraham's family, but God's people were rebellious. Instead of blessing, they set themselves up to receive God's judgment.

But God's plans and promises were not thwarted. God sent the prophet Isaiah to preach a message of hope. Even though God was going to correct His people through judgment, His purpose was one of grace through which God would receive glory. God planned to send a Messiah who would bring salvation to the world.

Isaiah 6 opens with Isaiah's worshiping in the temple. God gave Isaiah a vision. Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne. The magnitude of God's holiness made Isaiah realize the magnitude of his own sin. His response? "Woe is me!" God extended His grace to Isaiah. He took away Isaiah's guilt, and sent him to His people.

Isaiah 53 records the fourth and final Servant song in the Book of Isaiah, describing God's plan of redemption. We see a vision of the promised Messiah, the innocent substitute who would suffer for the sake of sinners.

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies of a Suffering Servant. People assumed God had cursed the Suffering Servant for His own sins. But no; Jesus was sinless. Isaiah wrote that He was pierced because of our transgressions and crushed because of our iniquities. His punishment is what brought our peace. The Suffering Servant died the death we deserve.

Isaiah's words came 700 years before Jesus was born. This was God's plan all along! When we trust in Jesus, our sins are wiped away and His righteousness is credited to us.

The BIBLE Story

Isaiah, Prophet to Judah

Isaiah 6; 53

Isaiah was a prophet. One day, when Isaiah was worshiping God in the temple, **God gave Isaiah a vision.** A vision is like a dream, but Isaiah was awake. **Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne.** God was wearing a long robe that filled the temple. **Creatures with wings were standing above God.** They said, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD. His glory fills the whole earth.”

Isaiah knew he was with God. He said, “Oh no! I am a sinner. I cannot be with God, or I will die! But I have seen Him!”

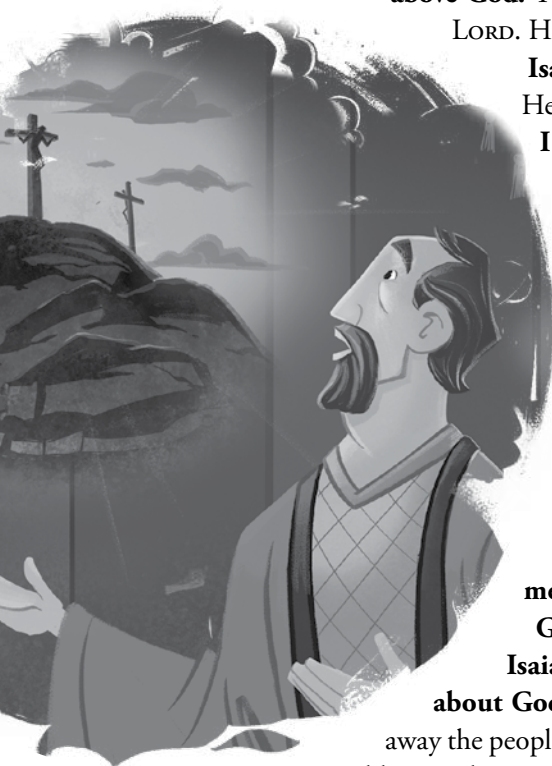
Then one of the winged creatures flew to Isaiah. He **touched Isaiah’s mouth with a burning coal** from the altar and said, “Your guilt is gone, and your **sin is wiped away.**”

Then God said, “Who should I send? **Who will go for Us?**”

Isaiah said, “Here I am! Send me.”

God said, “Go.”

Isaiah told the people of Judah about God’s plan. God was going to send away the people from Judah. Some of the people would come home one day. Those people would be some of the only people left in Abraham’s family. Isaiah said that God had a plan **to send someone—the Messiah—to rescue people from sin.** The Messiah would be a servant of God.



Isaiah said, “God’s servant will grow up and look very ordinary. No one will pay attention to Him. They will not want to be His friend.

“We deserve to be punished, but instead of punishing us, God will punish Him! People will think that He is being punished because He had done something wrong, but He will not do anything wrong! God planned this all along. When the servant dies, He will take away people’s guilt. God will look at us and say, ‘Not guilty!’ God will even say to us, ‘You’re good!’”

Isaiah explained that God’s servant will not stay dead. God will bring Him back to life! God’s good servant will see all the people He saved, and He will be happy. “Then God will give Him a reward,” Isaiah said. “God will give Him honor for doing the right thing and for saving people from sin.”

Christ Connection: God’s servant Isaiah wrote about Jesus. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Many years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote these words. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Sketch visions:

Draw simple pictures on a dry erase board or poster board at appropriate moments in the Bible story. Consider sketching a royal robe, a simple Jesus figure, a cross, happy faces, and a crown.

• Pantomime: Ask another adult leader to act out the role of Isaiah as you tell the Bible story. The leader can act out writing on a scroll as you tell Isaiah’s prophecies.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Isaiah, Prophet to Judah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 6; 53

STORY POINT: Isaiah told about the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

Welcome time

- "Come, Thou Fount" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Reveal the Vision" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers to connect the dots to reveal a cross.
SAY • Connecting the dots revealed a hidden picture of a cross! In our Bible story today, God showed a prophet named Isaiah visions about Jesus a long time before Jesus died on the cross. We will learn more about Isaiah's visions from God in our Bible story today.

LOW PREP

Play "I Spy"

Say, "I spy with my little eye something ..." then describe an object in the room by color. Encourage children to guess the item you are describing. The child who guesses correctly may give the next description. Be prepared to offer assistance. Continue play as desired.

SAY • Good job describing what you saw! In our Bible story today, we will hear Isaiah describe visions he

received from God. But no one else could see what he described, and they would never have guessed it. I wonder if you will be able to guess who Isaiah saw in his visions when you hear our Bible story?

Reveal hidden messages

Before the session, draw simple pictures or words thickly with a white crayon on copy paper. Encourage preschoolers to paint the papers with watercolors to reveal the hidden messages. Read the messages to the children. Hidden messages could be *crown, Holy, Messiah, Servant, or cross*.

- white crayon
- copy paper
- watercolors
- paintbrushes
- cups
- water
- smocks (optional)

SAY • Do you know whom all of these messages are describing? Jesus! A long, long time before Jesus lived on earth, a prophet named Isaiah wrote about Him using all of these words. Prophets tell God's messages to the people, but most people didn't understand Isaiah's message. Let's listen closely to our Bible story today and pray that God helps us understand His message!

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Ask, "Who will go to Bible study?" Encourage children to respond, "Here I am! Send me" as you move each child in the group to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Isaiah 6 or 53 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Our Bible story today comes from the Book of Isaiah. God gave Isaiah these words to write. Since these are God's words, we know they are true!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Isaiah, Prophet to Judah" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Wow! Many years before Jesus was born, **Isaiah told about the Messiah.** *Messiah* means "Anointed One," or a special king. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Years later, everything happened exactly like Isaiah said. That proves Isaiah's message was from God! Only God knows and controls what will happen in the future. Only God could make such an amazing plan to save people from sin.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage several times. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY • Our key passage was written years before Jesus or Isaiah lived! God said even then that He would forgive sin because God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Let's praise God for His grace through all time!

Sing the key passage song, "If My People," and the theme song, "Come, Thou Fount."

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- "If My People" song
- "Come, Thou Fount" song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • After today's Bible story, you probably already know the answer to our new big picture question ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin Isaiah wrote about.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Invite preschoolers to stand and cheer when you hold up a ball from a sport they like. Hold up balls used in different sports one at a time.

SAY • Did you know people can use their favorite sports to tell people about Jesus? People are doing that in the city of Baltimore! They play football. Coach Sean is one of those people. He tells the players about Jesus. Display the "Baltimore Photo" and pray for the city.

- sports balls
- "Baltimore Photo" printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



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LOW PREP

• Bibles, 2

Share the message relay

Form two teams. Lead half of each team to form a line on one side of the room and the other half to form a line on the other side. Give a Bible to the first person in each line on one side of the room. Direct her to walk to their teammate at the front of the line on the other side of the room, give him the Bible, say, “God planned to send Jesus,” then go to the end of that line. The child with the Bible will now repeat the same actions. Continue to play until each child has held the Bible and said the message. The first team to share the message with their whole team wins.

SAY • Good job sharing the messages! In our Bible story today, God sent Isaiah to share His message with the people. **Isaiah told about the Messiah**, the Savior God would send to fix what sin broke. Many years before Jesus was born, God planned to send Jesus. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.

LOW PREP

• blocks

Build a throne

Invite preschoolers to work together to build a throne out of blocks. Comment on what it would be like to see God on His throne as preschoolers work.

SAY • While he was worshiping God in the temple, Isaiah had a vision from God. He saw God sitting on a

throne. God was wearing a long robe that filled the temple. God gave Isaiah a job to do. Many years before Jesus was born, **Isaiah wrote about the Messiah.** Jesus is the Messiah. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Jesus is the Servant who died to save people from sin.

Dress like royalty

Provide robes, crowns, jewelry, and other items for children to dress up like kings and queens. Consider providing oversized beach towels to use as trains. Do not fasten material that drags on the floor around preschoolers' necks.

- robes
- crowns
- jewelry
- oversized beach towels

SAY • When Isaiah was worshipping God in the temple, God gave Isaiah a vision. Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne. God was wearing a long robe that filled the temple. When Isaiah realized he was with God, he immediately thought about how sinful he was. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.***

Review the timeline

Before the session, print and cut apart the “Timeline Review” cards. Gather the children near the timeline. As you hold up each picture, read the correlating text from today’s Bible story and place a piece of painter’s tape on the card. Invite a child to take the card to the timeline and find its match. Once all the cards have been matched, invite a child to find today’s Bible story on the timeline. Ask if Isaiah lived before or after all the things he described.

- “Timeline Review” printable, 1 per group
- heavyweight paper
- scissors (adult use)
- painter’s tape
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

SAY • Isaiah was a prophet. He told the people of Judah about God’s plan before it happened. God was going to send away the people from Judah because of their

sin. But Isaiah also said that God had a plan to send someone—the Messiah—to rescue people from sin. Many years before Jesus was born, **Isaiah told about the Messiah**. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin.



Make squishy aquariums

Before the session, print *Pray for Baltimore* on self-adhesive labels. Post an allergy alert. Show preschoolers the “Baltimore Aquarium Photo.” Comment that the Baltimore aquarium is a famous place to visit.

Give each preschooler a sandwich-sized ziplock bag. Set out small plastic fish. Invite a child to choose a plastic fish and put it in her bag. Then squeeze $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of hair gel in the bag and a few drops of blue food color. Push out all the excess air, seal the bag, and reinforce the seal with clear packing tape. Place the filled bag inside another empty ziplock bag and seal. Invite preschoolers to put the labels on their bags and lay them on a table to work the food color through the hair gel.

SAY • The Baltimore aquarium is a famous place to visit. Christians like Coach Sean know that teenagers in Baltimore need to know that Jesus died on a cross to rescue them from sin. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** When you get home, ask a grown-up to help you hang your squishy aquarium in a window to help you remember to pray for Baltimore.

- “Baltimore Aquarium Photo” printable
- self-adhesive labels
- marker
- sandwich-sized ziplock bags, 2 per child
- small, plastic fish
- hair gel
- blue food color
- clear packing tape

Option: If plastic fish are not available, invite preschoolers to stick fish stickers on the outside of their bags.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve chocolate puffed cereal for snack. Talk about how the cereal looks like coal. Remind children that in Isaiah's vision of God, one of the winged creatures in the temple touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal from the altar. Then God sent Isaiah to tell the people of Judah about God's plan. **Isaiah told about the Messiah**, the One who God would send to rescue people from sin.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Was Isaiah a prophet, priest, or king? (*prophet*)
2. Whom did Isaiah write about? (*the Messiah, Jesus*)
3. When did Isaiah write about the Messiah: before or after Jesus was born? (*many years before*)
4. Who died to save us from sin? (*Jesus*)
5. How will Jesus feel when He sees all the people He saved? (*He will be happy.*)
6. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- chocolate puffed cereal (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If My People" song
- "Come, Thou Fount" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers