



Use Week of:

Unit 15 • Session 1

Isaiah, Prophet to Judah

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Isaiah 6; 53

STORY POINT:

The prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

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 worshipping God in the temple when he had a vision. Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne. God's robe filled the temple. Seraphim—heavenly beings—stood above Him. They each had six wings, and they called out: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord; His glory fills the whole earth.”

Isaiah was in the presence of God! He said, “I am ruined! I am sinful. I do not deserve to be in the presence of the King, the great and holy God.”

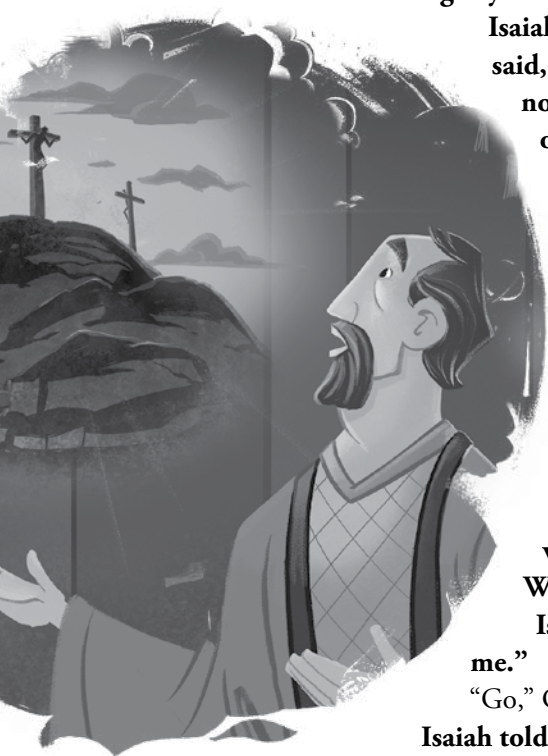
Then one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah. He touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal from the altar and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, **your wickedness is removed and your sin is wiped away.**”

Then Isaiah heard God's voice: “Who should I send? Who will go for Us?”

Isaiah said, “Here am I! Send me.”

“Go,” God said.

Isaiah told the people of Judah about God's plan. God was going to send the people away from Judah, but He would bring some of the people back. These people were part of Abraham's family. God was going to keep His promise to Abraham through them.



Isaiah explained that a Messiah was coming, someone who would be Israel's Savior. The Messiah would be a servant who would suffer and be a sacrifice to rescue people from sin.

Isaiah said there would be nothing special about God's Servant. "No one will notice Him. People won't even like Him," Isaiah said. "We will see Him and turn away. We will look down on Him and won't care about Him."

But nothing would stop the Servant from doing God's plan. "He will carry our sicknesses and pains. We have disobeyed God and wandered away like lost sheep, but instead of punishing us, God will punish Him!"

This was God's plan all along. The Suffering Servant would give up His life as an offering for sin and give life to many, many people. He would take away their guilt, and they would be righteous by His righteousness. And this is how God would prove that what the Messiah does has worked—He wouldn't stay dead. God would bring Him back to life.

Isaiah said that when God's plan happened, the Messiah would see all the good that would come from His suffering, and He would be glad He suffered. **Then God would reward Him with great honor.**

Christ Connection: God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote that this would happen! Jesus is the Servant who suffered so that those who trust in Him would be forgiven.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use lighting effects:** Stand in a spotlight to portray Isaiah's vision.
- **Use props:** Display a throne or large chair at the front of the room. Drape a long robe or cloth over the chair.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Isaiah, Prophet to Judah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 6; 53

STORY POINT: The prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share details they remember about what they did eight days ago. Are these details hard or easy to remember? Why?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Connect the Dots” activity page,
1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Connect the Dots” on the activity page. Guide kids to connect the dots to discover what Isaiah talked about.

SAY • What picture did you find when you connected the dots? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Did you know that Isaiah was a prophet who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born? Let’s find out what Isaiah had to say about Him!

LOW PREP

- paper
- pencils

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Look and listen drawings

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil. Explain that you are going to give kids instructions for drawing something, but you will not use any words. Kids must pay

attention to your gestures. Use body movements and hand motions to prompt kids to draw a picture of a child flying a kite in a park with a dog. Allow kids to draw for a few minutes and then compare their drawings.

Play a second round. This time, explain that you will use words but kids must close their eyes as they draw. Prompt kids to draw a boat on a river with lemon trees on the shore and three fish in the water.

SAY • What things made it difficult to follow my instructions? Today we are going to hear a story about a prophet who took God's message to people who would listen but would not understand and who would look but not notice the truth. That must have been frustrating! Let's find out more.

OPTION 2: Bible person clues

Form two teams. Each team should choose a representative.

Explain that you will give clues about a person in the Bible. Teams may discuss and give a final answer to the representative, who will raise her hand. Call on the first representative to raise her hand. Award 10 points for a correct answer.

If a team answers incorrectly, give the other team a chance to answer. If both teams answer incorrectly, give the provided reference for kids to find in the Bible. The first team to find the passage and correctly identify the person earns the points.

SAY • The prophet Isaiah gave some clues about a Suffering Servant who would give up His life for us. We'll find out who he was talking about.

• Bibles

Person Clues:

- the first person God created
(*Adam, Gen. 5:1*)
- built an ark
(*Noah, Gen. 6:9*)
- led God's people out of Egypt
(*Moses, Ex. 3:11*)
- led the Israelites into the promised land
(*Joshua, Josh. 4:1*)
- killed Goliath
(*David, 1 Sam. 17:51*)
- was swallowed by a fish
(*Jonah, Jonah 1:17*)

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Simulate a neighborhood by covering a focal wall in brown or red paper and drawing brick patterns over it. Use large rectangles of paper in other colors to create one or more doors over the brick. Arrange potted flowers next to a garbage can. Display a row of mailboxes. You may also choose to display the theme background slide.

Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- shoulder bag
- envelopes
- Bible

[Leader enters wearing dark pants, a light blue shirt, and a hat. He or she is carrying a bag across the shoulder that contains envelopes and a Bible.]

LEADER • Well, hello! Nice to see you! It's a beautiful day today, isn't it? My name is [*your name*], and this is my first day of training as a mail carrier. Getting here has been quite the process. I applied months ago! Then I had to take two tests and a personality assessment, practice memorizing lists of addresses, learn how to recognize errors and fill out forms, and complete

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

a background check. The postmaster finally said I could join other new mail carriers at a training school where we are going to learn everything we need to know about delivering the mail. You might think being a mail carrier is simple, but it can actually be a very difficult job! Mail carriers face all kinds of weather, come up against animals, and sometimes carry really heavy loads.

[*Reach into bag and pull out the Bible.*] You know who else had a hard time as they took messages to people? God's prophets! Can I share one of their stories with you today?

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As you listen to today's Bible story, keep this big picture question in mind. It will help you think about the bigger idea of what God was doing all along. The question is, ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke?*** Now that's an interesting question. I'm so glad God had a solution for our sin problem. In fact, He had a solution all along. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.***

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. - Giant Timeline

LEADER • As you hear a Bible story, remember that the whole Bible is made up of smaller stories that fit together to tell one big story—the story of God's plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus!

God had brought His people into the promised land, but after King Solomon died, the tribes of Israel split and formed two kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

The people trusted in their kings to keep them safe. The people of Judah felt safe when Uzziah was king, but after Uzziah died, the people were afraid.

God raised up Isaiah as a prophet at this time to warn God's people that the kingdom of Israel was going to fall and, later, Judah would fall too.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Isaiah 6; 53. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Isaiah, Prophet to Judah."

LEADER • God called Isaiah to be a prophet to the people of Judah. Isaiah told the people to stop sinning because God's judgment was coming. He shared the bad news that Judah would be overtaken by their enemies, the Babylonians. But Isaiah also brought good news to the people: God would one day rescue those who were faithful to Him.

The prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah.

Isaiah 53 tells about God's Servant. The Servant would suffer and be a sacrifice to rescue people from sin. Isaiah told of how Jesus would be hated. He said Jesus would not argue with those who wanted to kill Him, and His suffering would save us. Jesus would allow these things to happen so that we might live with Him one day. All of these things did happen, just as God told Isaiah they would.

- Bibles
- "Isaiah, Prophet to Judah" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Christ connection

LEADER • *How did God plan to fix what sin broke?*

Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners. God planned all along

that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote that this would happen! Jesus is the Servant who suffered so that those who trust in Him would be forgiven.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 135 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 15, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about whether or not kids can serve God. Guide them to discuss ways of serving God they will try this week.

• “Unit 15, Session 1” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Scatter a collection of sports balls around the room. Ask kids to stand next to the ball that represents a sport they like to play or watch. Let volunteers share about their choices. Then ask everyone to sit down.

• variety of sports balls (football, baseball, basketball, soccer ball, golf ball)

LEADER • Many people like sports, so Christians sometimes use sports to tell people about Jesus. This is called sports ministry. Christians in Baltimore, Maryland, are using football to build relationships with teenagers and tell them about Jesus. They tell the athletes on their team about the Messiah, like Isaiah told the people in the Old Testament.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 2 Chronicles 7:14.

• Key Passage Poster
• “I Will Hear” song

LEADER • When God's people continually sinned against Him, God sent prophets to warn them to turn back to Him. God's people did not listen to the prophets. Even so, God did not stop showing mercy and grace and gave them more opportunities to repent of their sin. Our key passage reminds us of God's heart for His people. He loves us! When we repent and turn to Him, He will forgive. Let's sing our key passage song to help us remember this truth.

Lead boys and girls in singing "I Will Hear."

Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible and read aloud Isaiah 46:9-10.

LEADER • Isn't it amazing that the prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah seven hundred years before Jesus was born? The Bible is clear that God was working out His plan all along. God's plans are good, and they always happen. Let's sing!

Sing together "Once and For All."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord, You are good. Your ways are good, and You show us great mercy. Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the message of hope we have in the gospel. We pray that we would believe this good news and share it with others so they might know and love You too. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

• "Once and For All"
song

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- “Key Passage Cube” printable
- scissors
- tape or glue sticks

Before the session, print copies of the key passage cube in your preferred translation, one cube per kid. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading 2 Chronicles 7:14 aloud together.

Distribute key passage cubes and demonstrate how to fold the cube along the lines and tape or glue the tabs inside the edges of the cube to assemble it. Guide kids to use the cubes to practice saying the key passage. They should turn the cube to find and read the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 in order. Encourage kids to take home the cubes to work on memorizing the key passage this week.

SAY • God is right to punish sin, but we see throughout the Bible is that God’s desire is for people to repent, turn to Him, and receive forgiveness.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- “Kings of Israel and Judah” printable
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)
- tape

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Isaiah 6. Direct kids’ attention to the lists of kings from the “Kings of Israel and Judah” printable. Keep the lists in view for the remainder of the volume (through the story of Ezekiel). Remind kids that Isaiah was a prophet to

Judah. Tape the Isaiah name tag next to the list of Judah's kings. Explain that during the time Isaiah shared God's message with Judah, the kingdom was ruled by kings like Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz. Tape the arrow next to Ahaz's name. Point out that during Isaiah's lifetime, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed.

SAY • Isaiah's name means "Yahweh saves." He told the people of Judah that God's judgment was coming, and he also told them about God's promise to save His people. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.***

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 53:6. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What do all of the prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament show about God? Do they help you trust Him more? *Guide kids to discuss that the Old Testament prophecies told about things that would happen hundreds of years later, and God kept His promises through Jesus. We see that God was working out His plan all along to send a Savior, and He is faithful to do what He says.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 24:44.)
2. How can people who are sinful approach a holy God? *Lead kids to recall that a holy God is separate from sin. Without Jesus, we cannot be with God. Jesus came to take away our sin and give us His righteousness. We recognize we are sinful, but we trust in Him. God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life. We look forward to being with Him forever.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:14-16.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

3. How could Isaiah's story encourage someone who is nervous about the future? *Lead kids to identify that seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah. God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Kids can encourage others that God is in control and working out everything for His glory and our good. Even when we do not know or understand God's plan, we can trust Him with our future.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 16:5.)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

• "Baltimore Fact Strips" printable

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.



OPTION 1: Baltimore facts

Introduce the city of Baltimore using pictures from online that you can print or display electronically. Ask volunteers to read a fact strip aloud to the group. Ask them to also read the prayer request printed on the strip.

SAY • We can pray for the people of Baltimore to hear about Jesus, and we can also pray for the people in our city to hear about Jesus. God calls some people to go to other cities, but sometimes we just stay and love people right where we are.

Take time to pray for the requests on the strip. Lead kids to pray for people in Baltimore, but also for the people in your own city.

OPTION 2: Prophecy pairs

Print and cut apart the prophecy pairs cards. Make a stack of the Isaiah references, and form groups of two or more kids. Distribute the cards with New Testament references among the teams. Provide Bibles and challenge kids to find and read the New Testament passages.

LOW PREP

• "Prophecy Pairs" printable
• Bibles

One at a time, read the description of a prophecy from Isaiah. Kids should find the New Testament match describing each prophecy's fulfillment (how it came true).

SAY • Isn't it amazing that seven hundred years before Jesus was born, **the prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah?** The Bible says every one of God's promises is fulfilled in Jesus. [See 2 Cor. 1:20.] God planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross for our sin. Jesus is the Servant who suffered so that those who trust in Him would be forgiven.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

• pencils
• Journal Page
• "Meaningful Words"
activity page,
1 per kid

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for His Word and for His faithfulness. Thank Him for Jesus, the Messiah who came as promised to bring us forgiveness and eternal life.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Meaningful Words" on the activity page. Kids should fill in the correct word for each definition and then write the circled letters in order to find the word for the final definition. (*Messiah*)

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.