

Isaiah- Advent 1

THE POINT

Focus:

The Lord promises to send a Messiah to free the people from sin and oppression.

The Lord is establishing an everlasting kingdom of love.

Application:

We see that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

We seek to live in the Kingdom of Peace, Justice, and Love.

Last Week: Nehemiah- Rebuilding the Wall

2 Weeks Ago: Daniel 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

HEART CONNECTION (2-3 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

Content:

Have you ever had someone come and visit that you've never met? Maybe it was an aunt or uncle, or a family friend.

Maybe your mom or dad or another grown-up told you what this person was like.

Maybe when you finally met them, they were different than you expected.

For the leader- give a personal example of meeting someone you'd only heard about.

In our story today, Isaiah tells the people of Israel about how their Messiah is going to come. He's going to be a human and God at the same time. The Messiah is going to bring a Kingdom of Peace and Love. Isaiah tells the people of Israel this in a beautiful poem. We have 9 envelopes/boxes that illustrate things that Isaiah says about what to expect from the Messiah.

STORY CONNECTION (10-12 MINUTES)

Optional: Instead of using envelopes and pictures, you may use boxes with small objects. This will correlate nicely with the season theme of opening presents!

PREK and KINDERGARTEN:

MATERIALS:

- 1 basket for the teacher with 9 envelopes containing pictures/objects.
- Circle of Felt to place all objects on as you open/collect them.

1st & 2nd GRADE:

MATERIALS:

- Envelopes labeled 1-9, with the verse in each for children to read aloud when they show their picture/object.

Envelopes and Contents:

1. Lightbulb
2. Harvest/Fruit or Grain
3. Sword or small fake sword (like Playmobil)
4. Knotted and Frayed (cut) rope
5. Fire photo, or Tissue-paper flames
6. Picture of a baby, or a baby doll
7. Scroll
8. Crown
9. Heart

Have the children sit in a circle for the story. This helps include children who might feel shy, and helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

The prophet Isaiah spoke both warnings and promises to the people of Israel. One of the most famous passages, Isaiah 9, speaks of the Messiah to come, who will save the people from their sins.

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who are now living in darkness
will see a great light.

They are now living in a very dark land.

But a light will shine on them.

(Open Envelope with a Lightbulb picture, or a box with a light bulb)

³ Lord, you will make our nation larger.

You will increase their joy.

They will show you how glad they are.

They will be as glad as people are at harvest time.

(Open Envelope #2 with a picture of a harvest, or box #2 with a piece of fruit.)

They will be as glad as warriors are

when they share the things they've taken after a battle.

(Open Envelope #3 with a picture of a sword, or box #3 with a fake sword.)

⁴ You set Israel free from Midian long ago.

In the same way, you will break

the heavy yoke that weighs Israel down.

You will break the wooden beams that are on their shoulders.

You will break the rods of those who strike them down.

(Open Envelope/Box #4 with a piece of broken (frayed) rope.)

⁵ Every fighting man's boot that he wore in battle will be burned up.

So will every piece of clothing covered with blood.

All of them will be thrown into the fire.

(Open Envelope #5 with a picture of Fire, or Box #4 with tissue-paper flames)

(continued below)

(continued) Reference

⁶ A child will be born to us.
A son will be given to us.
He will rule over us.

(Open Envelope #6 with a picture of a baby, or box #6 with a baby doll)

And he will be called
Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.
He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever
and Prince Who Brings Peace.

*(Open Enveloped/Box #7 with a scroll saying "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".)*

⁷ There will be no limit to how great his authority is.
The peace he brings will never end.
He will rule on David's throne
and over his kingdom.
He will make the kingdom strong and secure.

(Open Enveloped #8 with a picture of a crown, or box #8 with a small crown)

His rule will be based on what is fair and right.
It will last forever.
The Lord's great love will make sure that happens.
He rules over all

(Open Envelope #9 with a heart, or box #9 with a heart).

WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like to wait for a Messiah that would be the prince of peace.

I wonder what it was like for Jesus to wait to bring his Kingdom of love.

I wonder what it was like to wait for a great ruler to come as a little baby.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (MINUTES)**

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies, paper.

Some of the people who were waiting for the Messiah wanted the King to come as a ruler who would make everyone follow the rules. They wanted a ruler who would be large and proud and in charge. They wanted a ruler who would give them presents like food and money.

Jesus came as the Messiah, and he brought things that money can't buy. He brought peace and wisdom and freedom from sin. He brought a Kingdom that is in our hearts and our churches- one that no one can take away from us.

Take a few minutes to talk with King Jesus about what we learned about today. Talk to him about being the Prince of Peace and Lord of your heart and life.

Suggested Prayer: King Jesus, we know that you are the best gift we could ever have. We know that you bring freedom and love and peace. We ask that you would give us your Kingdom in our hearts this week and every week. We love you Jesus! Amen.