



Messianic Prophecies

Key Passages

- Isaiah 7:14, 53:6; Matthew 1:21

Lesson Focus

- God always had a plan that Jesus would come.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Nativity Scene Coloring Sheet and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how God planned from the beginning that Jesus would come and die for sinners.

Song—Students will have fun singing songs. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Lacing Sheep

Students will lace and color a sheep to take home.



Activity 2: God's Path

Students will follow a path around the room while following the leader and carrying the sheep they assembled in Activity 1.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse by playing the Echo Mountain Memory Game.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one Nativity Scene Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Nativity Scene Coloring Sheet for each student
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print and cut one each of the five Prophet Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during the lesson.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Five Prophet Illustrations



LACING SHEEP

- Print and cut out one Lacing Sheep card, preferably on cardstock, from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Use a hole puncher to punch holes around the sheep. Holes should be large enough to easily thread the yarn through.
- Precut a strip of yarn for each student. Make sure it is long enough to go around the sheep. Tie a knot at one end of each strip of yarn.

- Lacing Sheep card for each student
- Hole puncher
- Yarn
- Crayons



GOD'S PATH

- Before class begins, mark a path on the floor using masking tape.

- Masking tape
- Lacing Sheep Activity assembled earlier



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- No preparation necessary.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

Have you ever tried to predict the future? How did that turn out for you? Sometimes, our guesses about what will happen in the future are based on sound reasoning and information, but even then, our predictions are not guaranteed to actually come to pass.

But this is not the case for our Creator—He knows all things past, present, and future. He alone is omniscient. God used prophets to speak for Him. And when He did, those things occurred. A true prophet was identified by the accuracy of his prophecy. If what he proclaimed did not come to pass, he was considered a false prophet (Deuteronomy 18:17–22).

Today, we'll see how God used His faithful prophet Isaiah. Isaiah spoke the words of God boldly and truthfully. Like the prophet Micah, Isaiah spoke about the coming Messiah in specific detail—700 years before He was born. We'll explore two of Isaiah's messianic prophecies, foretelling Christ's virgin birth and His death for our sin upon the Cross.

Isaiah 7:14 speaks of a virgin conceiving and bearing a Son whose name would be Immanuel. We later see a clear connection between Isaiah's words and the angel's message to Joseph in Matthew 1:20–25, where Isaiah's prophecy is repeated and the name of Immanuel is translated as "God with us." The virgin, Mary, would bring forth a Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would be fully God and fully man (John 1:14). The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, proclaimed almost 700 years before Jesus was born, was fulfilled and recorded in the New Testament.

The second prophecy from Isaiah that pointed forward to the Messiah came much later in his ministry. In Isaiah 52:13–53:12, Isaiah spoke of the suffering Servant who would be beaten, despised, mocked, and rejected. This Man would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. He would become the offering for sin and die in the place of sinners.

Only the hardhearted can read this passage and not recognize the suffering and death of Jesus during the final days of His life on earth. In fact, anecdotes tell of Christians asking Jews to listen to this passage and to identify who is being described. As they acknowledge it describes Jesus's death, they are then shocked to learn that these words were spoken by the Jewish prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament—700 years before Jesus's birth.

For Christians, these words from Isaiah should shock us as well, but in a different way. We should be shocked to realize how much Jesus had to suffer for our sins. Go back and read Isaiah 52:13–53:12 again. Think about your role in why Jesus was tortured and crucified. Remember that the Father had to crush His Son so that you would not face His wrath in hell. As you were a sheep wandering after your own desires, Jesus was led as a lamb to be slaughtered on your behalf. Now take a moment to read 1 Peter 2:21–25 and notice the language that Peter is borrowing from Isaiah.

Isaiah's Prophecy	Connections in 1 Peter 2
53:5—He was wounded for our transgressions	2:21—Christ suffered for believers
53:9—He did no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth	2:22—Christ committed no sin or deceit
53:7—He opened not His mouth	2:23—Christ did not return the reviling He received
53:4–5—He bore our grief and was wounded for our transgressions	2:24—Christ bore our sins on the Cross that we might be healed
53:6—We all like sheep have gone astray	2:25—We have all gone our own way, like sheep

Jesus has fulfilled the messianic prophecies delivered by Isaiah. What an amazing Savior we serve! He alone is worthy of our worship and praise. He is the only one who can save us from our sin. As you teach this lesson, pray that your students will fully understand their sinfulness and their need for this Savior—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Isaiah was a prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. His ministry lasted from about 760 to 700 BC and was primarily focused on Judah. His prophecies not only included calls to repentance from sin but also presented the hope of a future deliverer—the Savior and Messiah who would one day come.

We've said that Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin birth was 700 years before Jesus's birth. We know this

time frame to be true because the Bible says Isaiah spoke his words to King Ahaz (7:1, 7:3, 7:10), who ruled in Judah from 742–726 BC. Isaiah’s ministry continued into the reign of King Hezekiah who ruled from 726–698 BC. We read in Lesson 7 that Judah was attacked by the Assyrians in 712 BC during the fourteenth year of Hezekiah’s reign (Isaiah 36:1). The prophecies of Isaiah recorded in chapter 39 and following were delivered after Samaria fell to the Assyrians and when the Babylonian empire was on the rise. The prophecies from this later section of the book of Isaiah were most likely delivered around the same time since there are no clear time markers in the text. This places Isaiah’s description of the Messiah’s suffering and death more than 700 years before it happened.

One of the most powerful confirmations of the truthfulness of Scripture comes in the fulfillment of specific prophecies made well in advance of the actual events. The foreshadowing of Jesus’s death in Isaiah 53 was a demonstration of God’s sovereignty and omniscience as we recognize the precise fulfillment in the crucifixion recorded in the New Testament. God is the only one who knows the future with absolute certainty.

Although we can make plans, we can’t know what will happen tomorrow. In fact, to presume to know our future is to set ourselves in a place that only God should sit (James 4:13–16). God alone is omniscient. He alone knows the future. And He alone directs our

steps (Proverbs 16:9). His counsel will stand in spite of the plans we make (Proverbs 19:21). Confidence in His sovereignty and His omniscience will lead to confidence in His Word. That confidence can lead us to humbly submit to His Word and the truths it reveals—leading to an assurance of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Savior and Lord, my heart is filled to overflowing with gratitude as I recognize your great love and the sacrifice you made for me on the Cross. Yet, my heart breaks because so many in my community don’t know you. Only your sweet Spirit, reminding me of your love and sovereignty, keeps me from despair. Draw the hearts of my loved ones to you. And please move in the lives of my precious students, too. As I name them one by one, I ask that you make them aware of their own sinfulness so they will experience the godly sorrow that leads to true repentance. Use me, as you will, to minister your Word to them this week.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Nativity Scene Coloring Sheet.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, five Prophet Illustrations, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of supplication. God wants us to ask Him for help with all of our needs.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, I am glad you hear me when I pray. Lord, please help me with . . . (insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Who made you? *God.*
- ? What else did God make? *All things.*
- ? Why did God make you and all things? *For His own glory.*
- ? Can you see God? *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Bible Pass Around

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. **We'll start right here.** Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *When done with Bible Pass Around you may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

Refer to the Prophet Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM. Lay each down on the floor as you mention his name. So far, we have learned about the prophets Amos, Hosea, Nahum, Isaiah, and Micah. God gave these men special jobs. They spoke for God long before the Bible was written!

- ? What were these people who spoke for God called? *Prophets.*

That's right! Prophets spoke for God! We already talked a little bit about the prophet Isaiah. *Point to the Isaiah illustration.* Today we will learn more about

him! Remember, Isaiah was the prophet who spoke to King Hezekiah. He told the king not to be afraid. God would save them. *Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart.*

Well now, Isaiah had another message to give to the Israelites! This was another very special message. Let's find out what Isaiah said by reading in God's Word! Let's open the Bible to the book of Isaiah now! *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is in my Bible. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle. Read Isaiah 7:14.*

Isaiah 7:14

? What did the Bible say the Lord would give? *A sign.*

Yes. God gave a sign. The sign included a baby boy! A baby would be born, but not just any baby. This baby would be God's Son! As a part of the sign, Isaiah said this baby would have a special name.

? What does this verse say He would be called? *Re-read the verse if necessary. Immanuel.*

Immanuel means "God with us." Isaiah said that God will be with His people! He would live with them and talk to them and tell them how much He loves them!

God always had a plan that this baby boy would come. It was His plan from the very beginning. He told Isaiah of His plan and comforted His people by it. God told the people, I will send my Son to you! I am your God, and I will be with you! And this is exactly what happened! Now we are going to read from the New Testament—way back here toward the back of the Bible. This verse is in the book of Matthew. Listen carefully. I'm going to ask you some questions. *Show the children the book and passage. Read Matthew 1:21 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

? What would be born? *A son.*

? What was His name? What were they supposed to call Him? *Jesus.*

? And why did Jesus come? *Re-read the verse if necessary. To save His people from their sins.*

Jesus would save His people from their sins! Jesus is the Messiah! God always had a plan to save His people from their sins. That plan was to send Jesus to earth as a man.

Our memory verse from Isaiah tells us of God's plan for saving sinners! Isaiah knew that God would send Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. Let's read the memory verse together! *Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page to read with the students. As you ask the questions below, point out the answers on the Memory Verse Page.*

Isaiah 53:6

? What does this verse say we are like? *Sheep.*

? What have we all done? *Turned away.*

? What do you think we have turned away from? *Allow discussion.*

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

Matthew 1:21

We have all turned away from God. We are all sinners! We have gone our own way and not God's way! And the verse says that the Lord laid on Him—on Jesus—the iniquity of us all. Iniquity is a pretty big word. It means sin! Can you repeat that word for me? *Repeat the word iniquity a few times.*

? What does iniquity mean? *Sin.*

That's right. The Bible says that Jesus took the punishment for sin Himself. Isaiah knew all of this a long, long time before it happened. Isaiah also said that when Jesus came, He would be hated and rejected. People wouldn't like Him at all. This all came true. Jesus was hated by many people. That's why they killed Him. But that's why He came. He came to die on the Cross. This was always God's plan—that Jesus would come and save sinners!

This sounds like horrible news. After all, Jesus was perfect. He never sinned. He didn't deserve to die. But, it is really great news for us—because we are all sinners. And God hates sin. Our sin separates us from God. And because of our sin, we don't have a chance to get to God or to go to heaven. We deserve God's punishment! But God sent Jesus. And Jesus obeyed God. And now, even though we are terrible sinners, when Jesus died on the Cross, He made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins.

The Bible says that all who believe in Jesus, turn away from their sins, trust Him, and call on His name, will be forgiven and saved!

God used Isaiah the prophet to tell the people all about Jesus hundreds of years before He came. And we know that everything Isaiah said about Jesus is true. God always had a plan that Jesus would come one day and make a way for sinners to get to Him!

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

Before the world was created, God had a plan that Jesus would come to die for sinners. He took the punishment for our sins so we can be with God! Let's sing the song we learned a few weeks ago called "God's Mercy." *Sing "God's Mercy."*

Good job! Now we will finish this time singing our Memory Verse Song. God wants us to know His Word. Let's sing it! *Sing the Memory Verse Song.*



Lacing Sheep

MATERIALS

- Lacing Sheep card for each student
- Yarn
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the lacing sheep cards onto cardstock and cut them out, one per student. Use a single hole punch to punch holes around the edges. Make holes large enough for little hands to thread the yarn into and out of them.

Give each student a string of yarn with a knot tied at one end. Help students lace the yarn around the sheep. When

they are finished, they may color their sheep. Remind students that we all are like sheep and have gone astray through our sin.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Isaiah told us that we are like sheep. Sheep sometimes stray away from the shepherd and the other sheep. We tend to stray away from God, too. We want to go our own way and not follow God. That is sin! But God sent Jesus, and Jesus took the punishment for all the sin of everyone who would ever believe in Him!



God's Path

MATERIALS

- Masking tape
- Lacing Sheep Activity assembled earlier

INSTRUCTIONS

Before class begins, mark a path around the room with masking tape or colored painter's tape. Assign a child to lead the "sheep" along the path. The children will take the sheep they made earlier and follow the leader along the path. They need to stay on the path! You can switch leaders and repeat as time allows.

The Bible says we are all like sheep and we stray away from God! That's not good! Let's pretend we are sheep, and we have to follow this path! Don't get off of the path and stray away!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Everyone sins. We all go our own way. Our verse says that we all like sheep have gone astray. We have turned to our own ways. We have turned away from God. But God has made a path for us that leads to forgiveness and eternal life. We can find God's path and the right way to go through Jesus and God's Word.

God wants us to be with Him. But our sin has separated us from God. That's why God sent His Son Jesus into the world. God always had a plan that Jesus would come. Jesus came to pay the price for our sin, and that price was death. Jesus died for sinners so that we can be with God!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's work on memorizing part of God's Word! This is called Echo Mountain Memory!

Divide the entire class into three teams (including teachers). You can do boys, girls, teachers to start and then mix it up by age, by hair color, are they the oldest or youngest in the family, etc.

After reading or singing the Memory Verse Song together, assign one group to start by saying the first phrase of the memory verse. As each group speaks, have them sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch their toes, etc.—something to get them moving. Group two will echo. Then group three will echo again. Continue several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Change it up. This will help them learn.

You may want to lead the verse and allow the children to echo after you until they can figure out how the game works.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This verse says that we are like sheep! We stray away from God, and we sin. Everyone sins and disobeys God. That is why Jesus came to earth. He died so that sinners could be forgiven. If anyone believes in Jesus, trusts Him, and obeys His Word, he will be forgiven. Jesus is a friend to sinners!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart and any other props you've used today.

Isaiah was a man of God who spoke God's true Word to the Israelites. God used the prophet Isaiah to comfort His people. He told the people that a Messiah was coming—a rescuer to save His people! This rescuer was someone special. He was God's Son Jesus! Isaiah said His name would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us." God wanted His people to know that He would be with them. He would live with them, talk to them, and love them! But Isaiah also told them something else about Jesus. He would save His people by dying for their sins! God always planned that Jesus would come. He made this plan long ago before sin ever entered the world. This was God's great plan to bring His people back to Himself.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Sin is all around us. Isaiah the prophet tells us that we are like sheep that have gone astray. We have turned to our own way. None of us wants to do good or to love God. Instead, we only think of ourselves. This is sin and breaks God's heart. God wants us to stop sinning and worship Him alone. He wants us to be free from sin so we can be with Him. That is why God sent His Son Jesus to die for sinners. He planned this from the beginning of time. God always had a plan that Jesus would come and die for the sins of His people. And because of Jesus's death, we can have life forever with God!



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for the prophets who revealed God's Word to us.
- Praise God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins.
- Pray that God will help us understand and believe the truths about God's plan and Jesus that are in the Bible.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

GOD'S MERCY

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Clap, stomp, whisper, and yell when singing "all our sins" and "punishment."

God must punish all our sins,

(London Bridge is falling down,)

All our sins, all our sins.

(Falling down, falling down.)

God must punish all our sins,

(London Bridge is falling down,)

Because He is ju-ust!

(My fair lady.)

Jesus took the punishment,

Punishment, punishment.

Jesus took the punishment,

For all who trust in Him!

Think of fun ways to sing. For example: Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.

ISAIAH 53:6

(To the tune of "The Itsy Bitsy Spider")

All we like sheep have go-one a-astray;

(The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.)

We have tur-urned, every one, to hi-is o-own way;

(Down came the rain and washed the spider out.)

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

(Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.)

Isaiah 53 and ver-er-er-erse 6.

(So the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again.)