

Unto us A Child Is Born

Isaiah 9:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 9:6

“And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One blindfold for each pair of children in your class, a marker and one sheet of butcher paper for each pair large enough for both children to draw on together.

Several scrap pieces of paper approximately 2”x 2” and a marker.

A straw for each child, string (approximately 12” for each child, scissors, light weight tissue or paper, glitter and glue.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Blind Artist

Have your class form pairs. You will need one blindfold for each pair of children, a marker and one sheet of butcher paper for each pair large enough for both children to draw on together. Have the partners choose which person will be the blindfolded person. Next give each child a marker. Have the pairs next to each other and tell them, “When I say, ‘go’ you will have three minutes to draw your best picture of baby Jesus in the manger.” Say, “go” and allow for 3 minutes.

At the end of three minutes say, “stop.” Have the blindfolded children take off their blindfolds to see their pictures. The pictures drawn by those children without the blindfold should be noticeably better. Use this activity to introduce today’s lesson. The nation of Israel is in a state of great darkness. But Isaiah gives them a message of great hope. That the Messiah would come, Jesus, and He would take them out of darkness and show them

light. Before we came to know Jesus we were in spiritual darkness. Like our pictures that we drew while blindfolded our lives will be a disaster apart from Jesus' glorious light. When we receive the light of the gospel of Jesus, the blindfold is removed and the Lord can then make something very beautiful out of our lives.

LESSON TIME!

We live in a world that is not very peaceful. It is filled with uncertainty and sadness. It seems like troubles and sorrows in this world never end. Apart from God, life can be nothing more than a daily struggle in hopelessness. As we watch the news around the world we see the results of man's government. Countries wage war against their enemies; others face economic chaos, while everyone suffers from the consequences of man's sinful heart.

As we read the Old Testament we discover the same problems have been happening since the beginning of mankind. Because we are all sinners, we have are in desperate need of God's salvation. His kingdom and ways are perfect and not like the evil we see in this world.

God's judgment is coming, so this world needs a Savior. No man or nation can be saved without the salvation that God has provided for us in His Son Jesus. As we study our lesson today, we will learn that God sent the Messiah to save His people. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.** The faithful Prince of Peace who rules with righteousness will set up His own kingdom, giving us a future and a hope. He could have come as a judge and condemned this world because of its sin; but instead, He came as a servant who died to take away our sins.

ISAIAH 9:1-2

Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And

afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles.

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

Many people today want to know their future. They will do all kinds of crazy things to try to see the future, even pay people money for them to supposedly tell them the future. Why would people spend their money, putting their trust and hope in someone involved in witchcraft, to hear some information about their future? Years ago this demonic source of witchcraft was forbidden. Like the Bible says, there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The darkness of man's heart has always been evident from the beginning of time.

As we get into our lesson today, Isaiah the prophet deals with the wickedness of the Israelites who sought insight of the future from witches and mediums in the latter part of chapter 8. The people consulted witches and mediums who tried to seek answers from dead people, instead of consulting the Living God. God alone knows the future for He alone has already been there. Only God is eternal.

The people of Israel paid a heavy price for their wickedness. After rejecting God's plan for them the people of Judah would blame God for their trials (8:21). Darkness would be a daily part of their lives, as they would be led away as captive slaves to a foreign land. Wherever they would look, there would be trouble and problems. Every time we sin against God and go our own way we find that our lives become miserable. We have all kinds of problems because of our disobedience.

The territories of Zebulun and Naphtali represent the Northern Kingdom as a whole. In 732 BC this northern portion of Israel became an Assyrian province under Tiglath-Pileser III, which put the Jewish people under Gentile domination. Though Isaiah was probably using Zebulun and Naphtali to represent the Northern Kingdom it is interesting that Jesus' upbringing and early ministry were mostly in that very area near the Sea of Galilee. Because of His presence Jesus filled the land with His glory. From that area, Jesus the Messiah would arise and wipe away the gloom and darkness brought on by Gentile domination. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.**

Jesus would eventually come as the Light of the World (John 1:4, 8:12). Isaiah is prophesying of His coming here. People who walk in darkness were to see a great light and the light will shine on them. Jesus Christ was and is that light. He brings light into this dark world. In His light, we see ourselves, as we really are – sinners in need of a Savior. He removes the darkness of sin from our life. Have you allowed the light of Jesus to shine into your life? Let Jesus bring light to your life, and you'll never need to stumble in darkness. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.**

ISAIAH 9:3-5

You have multiplied the nation
And increased its joy;
They rejoice before You
According to the joy of harvest,
As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

For You have broken the yoke of his burden
And the staff of his shoulder,
The rod of his oppressor,
As in the day of Midian.

For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle,
And garments rolled in blood,
Will be used for burning
and fuel of fire.

Though the people have rebelled and received God's discipline, God will lead the people from spiritual darkness into light (verse 2) by sending the Messiah to bring them hope and peace (verse 6). He will increase their joy like the joy at harvest time or the joy of winning a battle and dividing the plunder. God will supernaturally work in the lives of His people to bring them out of darkness much like the nation's deliverance when Gideon defeated Midian (Judges 7:1-24, Isaiah 10:26).

God will restore the hearts of His people with joy as they enjoy peace. It will be like taking a burden off one's back (verse 4). They will live a life of freedom to enjoy life as God intended. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.**

Name Game

Choose one of the names from Isaiah 9:6 (Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace). You will need several scrap pieces of paper approximately 2"x 2" and a marker. Write out the letters of the name you have chosen on the pieces of paper. Write one letter on each piece. You can use two names if your class is large. Pass out one letter to each child in your class.

Once children have a letter tell them to think of a blessing or promise from scripture that the Lord has given them that begins with the letter that was given them. For example:

The name you chose is W O N D E R F U L. The person with the "W" could think of "Watches over me daily," the person with the "O" might come up with "Opens my heart to His love," and the "N" person might think up, "Never reminds me of my sin," etc. Allow the children to be creative.

After the children have thought of a blessing or promise have them try to arrange the name on the board. Allow them to work together and guess which name it might be. For the younger classes, or

when it becomes difficult, you can give them the first letter of the word. Another variation for younger children would be to write out the word on the board and have them play match game with the letters.

When they place their letter on the board with tape have them share the blessing or promise that they thought of. Once they are done with the name lead a discussion about what the name means and how that describes an aspect of who Jesus is.

ISAIAH 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And
His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In a time of great darkness, God promised to send a Light who would shine on everyone living in the shadow of death. He was to be born a child unto the nation of Israel. We are told that He will rule over God's people (Micah 5:2) and the world (Zechariah 14:9). Jesus will rule and reign, as King in righteousness and His name alone will be worshipped.

Jesus will have four descriptive names that will reveal His character. His names and titles will have special meaning to us. Our Messiah will be called WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, who will teach the people God's ways (2:3). The people will come to Him as the one with authority to lead them. He will be exceptional, distinguished, and without peer. Everyone will gladly listen to Him because He will speak the truth in love.

He will be called MIGHTY GOD. As He has wisdom, so He also has the strength to save and govern His people. What Jesus taught and what He did are tied inseparably to who He is. Jesus is God in human form. Although Jesus lived as a man, He never ceased to be the eternal God who has always existed, who is Creator of the universe and the source of eternal life (John 1:1, 14; Colossians

1:13-18). He is able to bring and provide us with hope and peace. He is God Himself. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.**

Our Deliverer will also be called the ETERNAL FATHER who is the possessor of eternity. He is the self-existent one who will eternally be a Father to His people, guarding, supplying, and caring for their needs. This is again a statement that Jesus is God in the flesh. He is one with God. Jesus said Himself, "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father." With Him we will live forever to enjoy the peace and comfort that a loving and caring father gives to his children.

Finally, the Messiah will also be called the PRINCE OF PEACE. He will be the one who will bring in and maintain the time of peace during the millennium, or thousand years of peace that He will bring to the earth. As king He will create, command, and preserve peace for everyone. He is our peace, and it will be His peace that both keeps the hearts of His people and rules them.

Jesus said He was sending to us the Holy Spirit to comfort us with peace of mind and heart (John 14:26,27). It's not peace like the world offers, which is usually defined as the absence of problems. His peace gives us the confident assurance in any circumstance so that we can face the present or the future without fear. If your life is full of fear, allow God to fill you with His true peace. Because of the Holy Spirit's work in your life, you will have a deep and lasting peace to bring you comfort.

Imagine never having to worry about anything! It seems impossible because we all have worries that effect us in our homes or at school; but, because God is in control, we do not need to worry. We can have confidence in Him. There are no surprises to Him. With confidence and peace we can be sure that our citizenship in Christ's kingdom is sure. Jesus gave His life on the cross so that anyone who puts their faith in Him for salvation will reign with their risen Lord, as His people. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.**

ISAIAH 9:7

Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

After Jesus reigns on this earth for 1,000 years, He will rule for eternity. He will be seated on David's throne (Luke 1:32-33), and His rule will be of peace and justice without end.

God made sure that the responsibility was totally dependent on Him to establish peace and justice on earth. Jesus will rule because God promised it and will see that the kingdom comes. Nothing or no one will be able to stop it. He will overcome all opposition to fulfill His promise.

Someone has said once, "In Christ we have a love that can never be fathomed, a life that can never die, a peace that can never be understood, a rest that can never be disturbed, a joy that can never be diminished, a hope that can never be disappointed, a glory that can never be clouded, a light that can never be darkened, and a spiritual resource that can never be exhausted."

God is faithful to His promise to save us, but we must receive His gift of salvation in trust and faith. Jesus first came to save the lost, to save us from our sins, redeeming mankind. Now He waits to come again as the Risen Lord, to rule and reign in peace and righteousness. Have you put your hope in Him to save you? In this world, Jesus is our only hope and He is our only peace. Salvation is only a prayer away. Let His peace and His righteousness fill your heart and you will never be the same.

“What’s in a Name?” Banner

For this craft you will need a straw for each child, string (approximately 12” for each child, scissors, light weight tissue or paper, glitter and glue. Cut a 1/2” slit on each side of the straw. Tie knots on each end of the string. Slide the knotted ends of the string into the slits in the straw, one on each end to hold the banner up. Cut the paper to the width of the straw and leave it about 12” long or longer. Fold and glue the top edge of the paper over the straw.

Have the children choose their favorite name from the list of names for Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Have them write that name on the banner and Isaiah 9:6. Allow them to decorate any way they would like. You may want to use sequins, stickers or other decorative things to make the banner look unique and special.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for sending us His Son to die on the cross for our sins to provide a way of salvation for us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.