

# Peace on Earth

Isaiah 11:1-9

## **MEMORY VERSE**

ISAIAH 11:1

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Several sheets of white copy paper.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **If You Love Jesus, Please Smile!**

In today’s lesson we will be learning about the time when Jesus will come to rule and reign on this earth. That should make everyone smile. You’ll have a class full of giggles with this game. Have your children sit in a circle. Choose a volunteer to be “It.” It must go around the circle and say to each child, “If you love Jesus, please smile.” “It” can do anything to get a child to smile as long as it is appropriate and he or she doesn’t touch the child. Absolutely no tickling!

The other players must resist smiling and say, “I really love Jesus, but I just can’t smile.” If a smile is cracked, the smiling player becomes “It.” You can be the judge for the game.

## **LESSON TIME!**

Have you ever been in a situation that seemed to be very bad? Maybe it seemed like there wasn’t any hope in the situation. But even in the middle of this bad situation did you know down in your heart that one day everything would be ok? Isn’t it wonderful as Christians that we have the promise that no matter how bad it gets in this world, and it is getting bad, it won’t always be like this? Jesus will be returning one day and as the Prince of Peace He will be establishing His kingdom here on this earth.

That is what the section of Scripture we are studying today tells us. Though judgment was soon to come to Israel, Isaiah's eyes are looking toward the glorious light of a far-off day. Israel was going to go through some very difficult times because of their disobedience, but God was not going to cast them away forever. What was it that Isaiah saw that gave him hope? This is what we will study in this lesson. **One day Jesus will rule and reign.**

### ISAIAH 11:1-3

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

In the previous chapter of Isaiah the ax cuts down the mighty trees and the forests, which is referring to the foreign soldiers and leaders. God's kingdom will not fall though, for His kingdom will arise by a shoot coming up from the stump of Jesse, who is King David's father. The world power resembles the forests and the nation of Israel, because they do not serve God anymore, is like the stump of a fallen tree, like a root without stems or branches. Yet God will bring forth a branch out of the house of David, which is the Messiah, Jesus.

This rod speaks to us of a humble beginning for the Messiah. Yet in the humble beginning there lies a power which will shoot up from the ground and will become a tree and this tree will have a crown (as trees do) and be full of fruit. It tells us that the state of

humiliation will be followed by one of exaltation and perfection.  
**One day Jesus will rule and reign.**

Verse 2 tells us that God will enable Him for that great work to which He is called to perform. “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him” shows us God’s equipping. The gifts listed can be defined as the following:

WISDOM - the power of discerning the nature of something through their appearance.

UNDERSTANDING - the power of discerning the differences of things and what they mean.

COUNSEL - the gift of forming the right knowledge or opinion about something.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD - fear absorbed in reverence. Remember to fear the Lord is to respond to Him in awe, trust, obedience, and worship.

All of these gifts or qualities describe Jesus. He constantly sought to do what God the Father wanted Him to do. We need to examine our lives and ask ourselves if we are doing all the Father desires for us to do, or are we just living for ourselves? Jesus, the Messiah, was completely surrendered to the Lord, just as we need to be. If you are not, why not pray right now and surrender all of your life to God.

In verse 3, Isaiah continues to describe the Messiah. He says that His delight will be in the fear of the LORD. His life will completely be about serving the Lord and nothing else. Jesus said, “My food and drink is to do the will of my Father.” What an example we have in Jesus! We also have the confidence that He does not judge by outward appearances, but according to the relation of the heart to God. He will not judge like an ordinary judge, but with

righteousness and impartiality. **One day Jesus will rule and reign.**

### ISAIAH 11:4-5

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Jesus will do justice and He will not oppress the poor and needy as they are by human leaders. He will do justice to the weak and helpless, by taking an incorruptibly righteous course towards their oppressors, and decide with honesty for those who are humble and meek. He will plead for the people that are poor and oppressed and He will be their protector.

The wicked will experience the full force of His righteousness in their punishment. The very word of His mouth is a rod, which shatters in pieces, and the breath of His lips is sufficient to destroy. It is so wonderful to know that righteousness and faithfulness will characterize Jesus' glorious reign. Just as a belt holds our clothes together so all the qualities and powers of His judgment hold us together. **One day Jesus will rule and reign.**

### Follow God's Word!

Have you ever had a time when you were lost? Allow anyone in your class to share about such a time. Being lost can be scary. It is important that we follow directions so that we don't get lost. It is also important that we have good directions to keep us from getting lost. In this game we will be giving and following directions.

Set up a small obstacle course for the children to go through using chairs, desks or other items.

Form pairs and have them stand on the one side of the room. Have everyone face their partner. Now each pair stands so that one has their back to the opposite side of the room. That partner will walk backwards through the obstacle course while the other partner gives directions on the best way to do it.

Tell the children that their goal is to walk around the obstacles to get to the other side of the room. The backward walkers must listen carefully to their partners as they are guided around the obstacles. When all pairs have reached the opposite side of the room, switch roles so everyone has a chance to experience both giving and following directions. Afterward, let the children help you scoot the chairs against the wall.

Then have them sit in a circle. Ask the children, "What was it like to listen to directions and try to follow them? What was it like to give directions?" Give them an opportunity to respond and talk about the importance of following the Bible and what the Lord wants us to do.

### ISAIAH 11:6-9

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

**They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.**

We now come to a very interesting part of Isaiah's prophecy as he describes the righteous kingdom that the Messiah will set up. We see that the curse from the Garden of Eden is lifted. Peace and harmony will again prevail and the wild animals will become tame and dwell peaceably with mankind.

Isaiah paints a beautiful picture for us. The wolf and lamb will be perfectly reconciled. The leopard will let the kid lie down beside it. The lion, between the calf and stalled ox will be together not preying upon one another. The cow and bear graze together, while their babies lie side by side in the pasture. The lion will be content to eat straw. The snake will become harmless and children will play with it. As we see peace in the animal world and also peace between man and animals, we see it is only God's rule that can bring this about. As the earth becomes full of the knowledge of God, we see the fellowship of His love among all of His creatures.

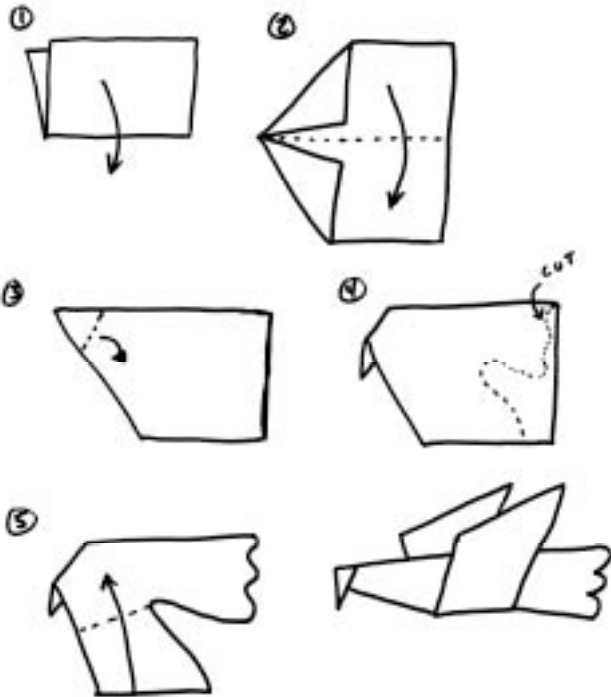
These nine verses tell us of a blessed future for all of us. We see the righteous reign of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, and the peace, which will prevail under His government that even reaches to the animal world. When the things of this world seem rather difficult to bear, we can look forward to the glorious hope of His coming kingdom. **One day Jesus will rule and reign.**

Another wonderful thing about these verses is that it proves the Bible to be true. Jesus has either fulfilled these things in His first coming or will fulfill them when He returns. When we see prophecy in the Old Testament fulfilled in the New Testament we know that God's Word is true. This was written several hundred years before Jesus came as a man. God wants us to know that His Word is true and that His Son, Jesus is the true Messiah and way of salvation.

## Paper Doves

In today's lesson we learned that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and one day when He rules and reigns He will bring peace on earth. Hand each child a piece of white copy paper. Use the diagrams below and demonstrate how to make the doves for your class (you may want to practice at home).

When the doves are finished let the children "fly" them around the room. Then have the children form a circle. Explain to the children that doves represent peace, they also represent the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent us a special helper, the Holy Spirit, to help us to serve Him. He also gives us peace. Peace is a characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit which is love. Allow the class to share different ways that the Holy Spirit works in our lives.



## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that one day we know that Jesus will rule and reign. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.