

# Ancient Christmas Promises: Fulfilled!

**Scripture:** Select Passages from Isaiah and Matthew

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6 *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

**Lesson Focus:** We will conclude our series on these ancient Christmas promises by connecting all of these dots to the first coming of Jesus Christ. But first, we will look to the book of Isaiah who will help us connect all of the ancient promises together. Our prayer is that the kids’ understanding of God’s love and trustworthiness would deepen as they learn how God kept His word in fulfilling all of these promises at that first Christmas.

**Activities and Crafts:** Connect the Dots Coloring Picture and Decode Puzzle Activity  
Activity for ALL Grades: Christmas Ornament Craft

**Starter Activity:** We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room after worship for another quick video (4 minutes) that we will use to introduce the lesson. Before the video we will briefly review the lessons from the last three weeks and remind the kids of the ancient Christmas promises God had already made to bring about His promised Rescuer.

When I was a little kid, I loved “Connect-the-Dot” pictures. I liked these because not only did you get to color the picture, but you got to finish the drawing of the picture itself! \* Now with some “connect-the-dot” pictures, you can already tell what the final picture is before you get started. But on some of the more advanced one’s, you can’t! \*

Q: For these, what must you do to figure out what the picture is? A: Start connecting!

Well, today we want to connect some “biblical” dots. These last few weeks we have been looking at various ancient promises that God made to people in the Bible:

- 1) There was the promise made to Eve in the garden that her future child would be the head-crusher of Satan to rescue the world from sin and death. (**Genesis 3:15**)
- 2) There were the promises to Abraham to make him into a nation and that one of his descendants would bless the whole world, including you and me! (**Genesis 12:3**)
- 3) There was the promise made to David that one of his descendants would be a King forever. (**1 Chronicles 17:11-12**)

Today we are going to look at one more ancient biblical character who will help us connect these dots. **START VIDEO HERE!** \*

Q: Who did God promise He would send? A: The Rescuer! God told Isaiah many things about this promised Rescuer. Let’s have a look at some of these prophecies!

## Bible Study:

Isaiah was one of the most famous **prophets** in all of history.

Q: What is a prophet? A: A prophet is someone who directly receives a message from God that is then given to people. Prophets were famous for saying, “**THUS SAYS THE LORD**”. In other words, they were speaking for God! \*

Sometimes God told these prophets things that would happen in the future! \* Read **Isaiah 46:9-10**. Here God declares that *He knows the end from the beginning*. **Teachers:** Consider drawing a timeline on the whiteboard and putting God over it all (see the initial timeline on the top-half of last page). We will use this timeline to “connect the dots” of all of the promises that we have been studying the last few weeks into a beautiful star (see final timeline on lower-half of last page with Jesus in the middle).

Now Isaiah was alive about 700 years before Jesus Christ or 700BC. \* Let’s add him to this timeline as well as the other characters that we have been talking about the past few weeks. Adam & Eve were at the beginning, Abraham at ~2000 BC, David at ~1000 BC, and God is over all, of course. (**Teachers:** Consider pre-planting these dates/points on the timeline and have the kids help you add in the characters to the right dates/points) \*

Now when God called Isaiah, 300 years had passed since the time of David. Remember David was the most famous king of Israel \* and the nation enjoyed prosperity and victory over their enemies during his reign. But those days were long gone now as Israel was now surrounded by their enemies and living in darkness. For they no longer trusted God. Read **Isaiah 1:1-2**. \*

Q: What did Israel do? A: They *rebelled* against God! They turned their backs on Him, despite all of His promises to them and the wonderful things He had done for them! But even though they had forgotten God, God did not forget them! \* As our video shared, God still loved them and fully intended to keep His promises to them. And He let Isaiah in on who He would send to fulfill these promises. Let’s look at what Isaiah learned:

**Isaiah 7:14:** This is a mysterious prophecy that describes something very special about the promised Rescuer. His birth will be a miracle. All of us who have ever existed (except Adam and Eve) have come from our human Mom and human Dad. But this child will have a human Mom only. His Dad is a bit of mystery!

Q: Did you catch what His name would be? A: **Immanuel** which means “God with us”. That gives us a hint at who His Dad will be, but we’ll come back to this later!

**Isaiah 9:6a:** Again, the promised Rescuer is described as a special child, a Son, and the the government will rest upon His shoulders.

Q: In America, whose shoulders would you say the government rests upon? A: The President! While we have many leaders in our government, our president has the greatest burden to lead and govern our country well (and we should pray for him!).

**Isaiah 9:6b:** This special child is given some magnificent titles! Wow!

Q: Let's read this again. How is this special child described?

- 1) **Wonderful Counselor:** He will work wonders and have all wisdom!
- 2) **Mighty God:** He is powerful and not just a human, but also God Himself!
- 3) **Everlasting Father:** He will be like a father who cares for and loves His people.
- 4) **Prince of Peace:** In His kingdom, there will be perfect peace.

Q: Who fits this description? A: Jesus, that's right! (**Teachers:** Add all five titles above the timeline as shown in preparation to connect them into the star)

**Isaiah 9:7:** God confirms that His Son, Jesus, will be King forever. \* As God said at the end of the video, "I PROMISE!" While there are a lot of other prophecies about Jesus in Isaiah, let's turn now to the gospel of Matthew and connect these dots.

**Matthew 1:1:** The very first verse of the New Testament connects us back to these Old Testament characters we've been learning about!

Q: Who was Jesus described as the son of? A: Abraham and David! Jesus is that descendant of Abraham who would bless the whole world! He is the descendant of David who would be King forever! (**Teachers:** Connect the red and green triangles to Abraham and David to Jesus's titles as shown in the picture below. Then skip ahead to v. 18 below)

**Matthew 1:18-20:** Joseph and Mary were not together yet, but yet Mary was pregnant with the baby Jesus. Joseph was confused and the angel visited him and explained that this was a miracle child, conceived of the Holy Spirit! This unlocks the mystery of who His father is, for it is God. Jesus is the "God-man" being fully human and fully God! \*

**Matthew 1:21:** The promised Rescuer was coming for a very important purpose.

Q: What did it say He will do? A: To save people from their sins. (**Teachers:** Connect the Adam/Eve dot to the Immanuel dot (blue) and remind them of how Jesus life, death, and resurrection undoes the sin that broke the world in the garden!) \*

**Matthew 1:22-23:** This happened to fulfill what God promised through the prophet!

Q: Which prophet? A: Isaiah! (**Teachers:** Finish off the blue connection by connecting the Isaiah dot to Immanuel and connecting all four promises together) All of these promises are connected together beautifully and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. For hundreds of years God's people were waiting and He finally came at that first Christmas around 0 AD (and the wise men saw His "star"!)

**Key Point:** In **Isaiah 9:6**, we read that a Son was *given to us*. This reminds me of **John 3:16** (**Teachers:** Have the kids read it or recite it out loud with you). God proved His love for you and me by becoming a man Himself to rescue us!

But we must believe and receive as **John 3:16** says. Have you believed? Have you received? Salvation thru faith in Jesus Christ is God's gift-wrapped present given to you. Receive this gift today and praise and worship Him who has kept His promises!

# Christmas Devotional

**Lesson Theme:** “Ancient Christmas Promises: Fulfilled!”

**Scripture:** Select Passages from Isaiah and Matthew

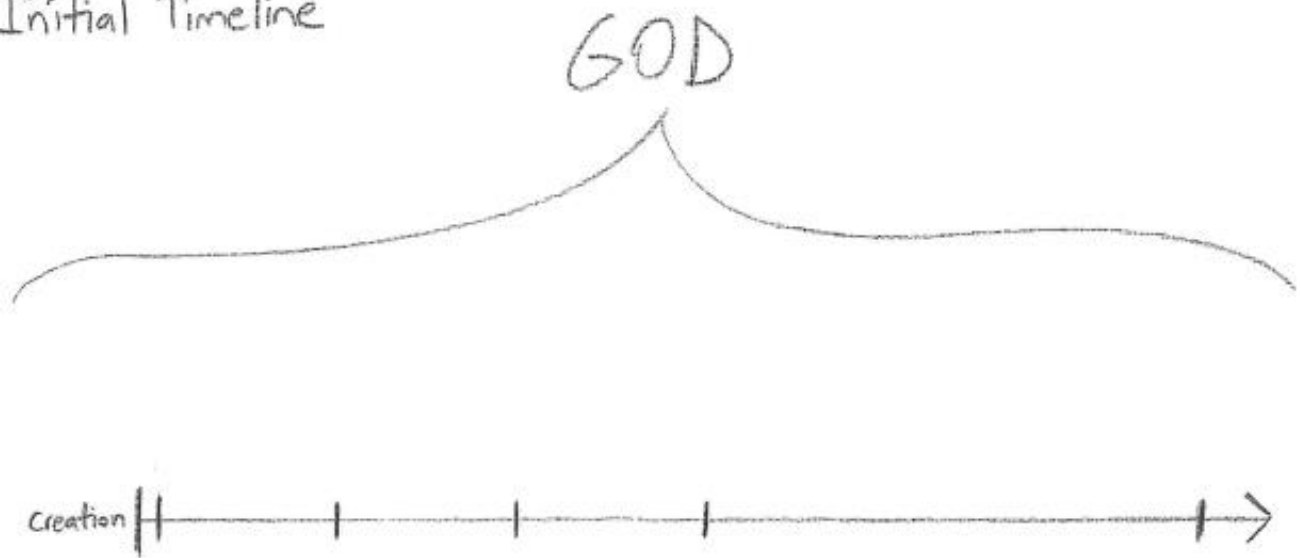
**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6 *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** These last several weeks we have been working our way through the Old Testament studying promises that God had made to Eve, Abraham, and David. Today we connected all of these promises together as they were fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus Christ. Has anyone ever made a promise to you, but you had to wait a very long time for its fulfillment? Talk about that experience and how it made you feel.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read Isaiah 9:6.** In class we spent some time talking through these titles given to the promised Messiah and Rescuer. Which one stands out to you as the most marvelous and why?
- 2) **Read Matthew 1:21** which tells us what Jesus Christ came to do when he entered the world at Christmas. See also **1 Timothy 1:15**. What was His mission?
- 3) **Read John 1:1-3 and then John 1:14.** Reread these verses again, but then replace all instances of “the Word” with Jesus. Stop and consider what this really means. Jesus is God and yet became man. The Creator became a creature. The infinite became finite. Immanuel: God came to dwell with us (**Matthew 1:23**). This is what happened at the very first Christmas. How does this prove that God truly does love mankind and desires to save us?
- 4) In class we often referred to Jesus as the God-man. Can you think of any reasons why it was important for the Savior to be both God and man? Checkout [gotquestions.org/virgin-birth.html](http://gotquestions.org/virgin-birth.html) for some thoughts on this.
- 5) **Read Luke 2:1-7** which gives us more detail on how Jesus came (and remember He is the God-man). These are the humblest of circumstances and yet this is how our great God and Savior entered the world. Why do you think the God-man came this way instead of with ceremony and splendor, which He would have deserved?
- 6) Think about a gift that you have received for Christmas that you have cherished and treasured. Do you treasure Jesus like this? Is there someone else that you can share Jesus with this Christmas?

# Initial Timeline



# Final Timeline

