



Dear Parents:

This page lets you know what your child learned today at church. Included are suggested discussion questions and possible activities that you may use to reinforce the Bible story at home. Please ask your child to share today's story with you. You may be surprised at how much he or she remembers!

TODAY'S STORY: ISAIAH

The people in God's kingdom continue to disobey Him and be separated from Him, but God wants His people back. He sends them warnings and messages of hope. In this message of hope, He promises them that He will send a perfect King from David's dynasty – an unexpected one – one that will pay for the disobedience of all people through His death. Then this King will be given honour and glory, and His kingdom will last forever.

Today your child learned about God's Promised King. Even though we do bad things that separate us from God, this King will teach us how to come back to Him. This King will never do or say anything wrong, but He will suffer and be hurt. His death will be painful and violent. This King will have to die because of all the things we have done wrong, but He won't complain or defend Himself. After the King dies, He will be given back His life. Because of His actions, we can be a part of God's kingdom. We can be forgiven for our disobedience. This Promised King will be a good judge, a good king, and His kingdom will last forever. He will be given some amazing names: Wonderful, Counsellor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever and Prince of Peace!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ISAIAH 53; 9:6-7

FOCUS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

"God promises me a King who will make my dirty heart clean."

NEXT STORY: BIRTH

Luke 1:26-38; 2:21-35, 39-40, 52
Matthew 1:18-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God kept His promises to David – he became king, and members of his family continued to sit on the throne. What happened to their relationship with God when those kings disobeyed God?

To whom did God tell His message of hope?

When you think about kings, what do you imagine they look like? How do people usually treat kings?

What did God say the Promised King would look like? How will this new King be treated?

We are told that the Promised King will never do anything wrong and never lie (53:9). Why then is the Promised King put to death and buried like a criminal?

Because this King willingly died, what will God do for Him?

What are some of the names this Promised King will be called?

If you could be any kind of animal, what would you be? Why?

Isaiah says (in 53:6) we are all like sheep that have wandered away. What do you think that means?

The bad things we do separate us from God. How can that relationship be repaired?

God calls the Promised King "my good servant" (in 53:11). What does it mean to be a servant? How can you be a good servant?

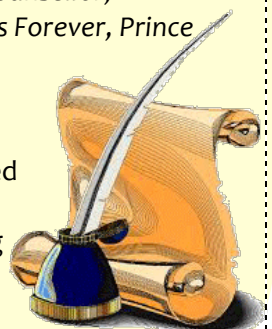
PRAYER:

Lead your children to thank God for giving us His Word and for sending the Promised King to rescue us and repair our relationship with God.

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITIES

"His name will be Wonderful, Counsellor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace." ~ Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Ask your children to think of words to describe the Promised King. Help them write a poem about the Promised King using some of the descriptive words that they came up with.



PROMISE KEEPER

God always keeps His promises. He promised Abraham that he would have many descendants. God promised David that he would become king ... followed by his son and then his grandson. Someone from David's family would rule over God's people forever! Now God has promised a different kind of King. (Discuss today's story with your child – emphasising that God keeps His promises.)

Have your children think about some promises that they would like to keep. (Examples: I will keep my room clean all week. I will eat my vegetables. I will wash the dishes. I will be nice to my sister. I will walk the dog.) Explain the importance of being faithful to keep any promises given. Help hold your children accountable with the following craft.

What you'll need:

- ~ Coloured paper, felt or other material
- ~ Craft sticks
- ~ Glue
- ~ Tape or staples
- ~ Markers
- ~ Magnet

Instructions:

1. Cut out large flowers from the paper, felt or other material.
2. Write one promise on each flower.
3. Glue (or tape) each flower to a craft stick.
4. Cut some thick (heavy duty) paper into the shape of a pot. Cut two pieces of the same design. Either tape or staple the two pieces together to form the pot – with an opening for the flowers.
5. Attach a magnet to the back of the pot.
6. Insert the flowers inside the pot.
7. Place the pot of flowers on the refrigerator as a reminder of the promises your child has made.
8. The flowers can be removed as the promises are fulfilled!



THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

"We all have wandered away like sheep; each of us has gone his own way. But the Lord has put on (the Promised King) the punishment for all the evil we have done. He was beaten down and punished, but He didn't say a word. He was like a lamb being led to be killed. ... He willingly gave His life and was treated like a criminal. But He carried away the sins of many people and asked forgiveness for those who sinned."

~ Isaiah 53:6-7, 12; NCV

Sheep are followers. If one sheep moves, the others will follow even though it may not be a good decision. Sheep sometimes wander. They eat without paying attention to where they are going and may not be able to find their way home. Thankfully, there is a shepherd to watch over the sheep, to rescue them and bring them back home. Like sheep, we are promised a King who will be the Shepherd that comes to rescue us and bring us home. Through this Promised King – this Shepherd – our relationship with God can be repaired.

Follow the Shepherd

Play a game where one person is the shepherd and everyone else is a sheep. The sheep follow the shepherd around the room – doing whatever the shepherd does. If the shepherd takes big steps, the sheep take big steps. If the shepherd hops on one leg and turns in a circle, the sheep hop on one leg and turn in a circle.

Sheep, Sheep, Shepherd

Play a version of "Duck, Duck, Goose" replacing the words with "Sheep, Sheep, Shepherd." The Shepherd chases the sheep.

SONG: All the Little Sheep

(Sing to the tune: "If You're Happy & You Know It")

Oh, all the little sheep belong to God
Oh, all the little sheep belong to God
When one sheep wanders off,
God will find it cause it's lost,
Oh, all the little sheep belong to God