



# THE PROPHET ISAIAH

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children become familiar with the person and message of the book of Isaiah and to understand that he predicted that Jesus would come.

## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Isaiah:** He was God's prophet. He was an ordinary man with an extraordinary message.

## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Isaiah 6:3:** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

## OVERVIEW

- ▶ Isaiah was a prophet who was called by God to preach repentance to the people of Judah, which was the southern kingdom of Israel. Judah was threatened by neighboring nations, and Isaiah counseled the king and the people to trust God. The people were falling deep into sin, and Isaiah was sent to warn them that if they did not turn back to God, they would be punished. Isaiah warned them that, as punishment for their unfaithfulness, they would be conquered by the Babylonians and exiled. But because God loved His people, He gave Isaiah information that would comfort the people during their exile: God would allow them to return, and God was going to send a savior.



## SUGGESTIONS

Isaiah's prophecies were significant during his lifetime, soon after his death, and hundreds of years later. The book of Isaiah shows God's power and punishment for sin, but throughout, God's mercy is displayed.

**1. Warning:** The people of Judah were fully aware of God's laws, but they willfully disobeyed them and turned their back on God and worshiped false idols. Even still, He loved His people, so He sent Isaiah to warn them that their disobedience would be punished if they did not turn back to God.

**2. Homecoming:** When the people of Judah did not turn back to God despite His warnings sent through Isaiah, God set His punishment in motion—soon the people would be exiled to Babylon. Even still, God's love for His people shines through, and He promises the people of Judah that they will not live in exile forever; they would be allowed to return to Jerusalem.

**3. Salvation:** Isaiah contains some of the first Messianic prophecies. In addition to telling the people that they would not live in exile all of their lives, God promised to send them a savior.

**4. Punishment for sin:** God hates sin and cannot allow it to go unpunished. God sent Isaiah to warn them to turn from sin and back to God.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

### Complete the Story

God used Isaiah to tell Israel what He was planning for the future. Play a game where you start a story and each student fills in what happens next with a sentence or two. You may start by saying, "Once upon a time, a girl named Sylvia..." then hand it off to the next student. Take turns until every student has a turn or the story reaches a conclusion.

## MEMORY VERSE MEANING

**Isaiah 6:3:** Holy means that someone or something is not just really good, but rather that they are completely different, separate, unique, and special.



## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▷ **Isaiah's Scroll | Supplies:** paper, brown watercolor paint, glue, and ribbon

Create an old-looking scroll with the memory verse or another verse from Isaiah printed on it. Let children wrinkle and smooth the paper, create creases, and even tear the edges. You may even singe the edges of the paper. Then, paint the paper with brown watercolor paint to give the scroll an old look. Curl the ends of the paper around a pencil, then glue them there and remove the pencil. Glue on a red ribbon to hang the scroll.

## TAKE HOME

- ▷ Just as God gave the people of Judah hope during the dark times they faced in exile, God has given us a promise to give us hope for the future, too: Jesus will return to the earth and reign as a just king over all of creation.

We have seen God fulfill many of the prophecies about Jesus when He lived on earth and died for the forgiveness of our sins. We know that He will finish the work that He has started.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What were the people of Israel doing during the time of the prophet Isaiah?

**A1:** They were living in sin, disobeying God, and worshipping false gods.

**Q1b:** How would you feel if you found out that your best friend started a rumor about you?

**TN:** That's really hurtful. We never would have expected to be betrayed by someone so close to us. When the people of Israel turned their back on God and started worshipping false idols, they betrayed their agreement with God to follow and obey Him.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did Isaiah see in his dream?

**A2:** Isaiah saw God sitting on His throne with angels all around Him.

**Q2b:** Your teacher tells you that there is going to be a test tomorrow. Do you share this information with the rest of your classmates?

**TN:** It doesn't seem fair to keep this information to ourselves. In Isaiah's dream, God tells him about His plans to punish the people of Israel for their disobedience and sin. God asks who will go tell the people to turn back to God, and Isaiah offers to take the job. We are given a similar job. We have information about how people can find salvation through Jesus Christ. We should not keep this information to ourselves.





## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** How did the people of Israel respond to Isaiah's message from God?

**A3:** The people of Israel laughed and made fun of Isaiah.

**Q3b:** Your friend spills her drink moments after she ignores your warning to pick it up off of the floor. How do you react?

**TN:** When we are right about something as minor as spilling a drink, we may want to gloat and say, "I told you so!" But in Isaiah's case, he was right about something really serious. The fact that people did not listen to his warning meant that they would face serious punishment, and it made Isaiah sad.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What good news did Isaiah tell the people of Israel would come?

**A4:** Isaiah prophesied that God would bring them back to their homeland, and that He would send a savior.

**Q4b:** When will Jesus fulfill the rest of the prophecies about Him?

**TN:** The Bible tells us that no one except God knows when Jesus will return; however, God has promised that Jesus will return, so it will happen.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

- ▷ **Isaiah 6:3:** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
- .....

**BIG IDEA**

- ▷ God's love and mercy is present even when people are at their most sinful and disobedient.
- .....

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

- ▷ Dear God, thank You for Isaiah. Thank You for the promises that You made through Isaiah. Thank You for fulfilling many of those promises already. Help us to believe that You will fulfill the rest of them. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



During the time of the prophet Isaiah, the people of Israel, God's chosen people, were living in sin. They had forgotten all that God had done for them. They did not keep God's commandments and instead prayed to false gods.

### SLIDE 2



God chose a messenger to go tell the people to stop sinning and turn back to God. He chose a man by the name of Isaiah to deliver this message. Isaiah loved God and was sad for the people of Israel. In a dream, God told Isaiah exactly what to say. In this dream, Isaiah saw God sitting on His exalted throne with angels all around Him. In the dream, God spoke, and His voice was so loud it shook the building and filled it with smoke. Then an angel came to Isaiah and touched his lip with a glowing coal. This meant that Isaiah's sins were forgiven. Then, in the dream, God asked, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for me to tell the people of Israel my message?" "Here am!! Send me!" Isaiah replied. "It is a difficult task," God responded. "The people won't listen, so I am going to punish them, but I am also going to give you a message of hope. I will not punish them forever."



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 3



The next day, Isaiah began to tell the people what God said. Day in and day out, he told the people the sad news, "You have sinned! God will punish you. Stop sinning and obey God!" But no, the people didn't return to God. Instead, they laughed and made fun of Isaiah. Then it all happened. Isaiah told the truth and the people of Israel did not listen. God took His protection away from them and the Babylonians conquered Israel. They carried away thousands of Israelites and made them into slaves. The Israelites were dragged away from their own country in ropes and chains. It was too late. God's punishment had started.

### SLIDE 4



The people were discouraged and depressed. But they remembered all that Isaiah had prophesied: God also gave him a message of hope: God would bring them back to their homeland and He would send them a savior. "Hear the good news," Isaiah had told them. "A King is coming—not a sinful one like you are used to! This King will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." This was exactly what the people had longed for. Deliverance was coming. Someday, this King would break onto the scene, and make everything right again. His name would be Jesus. Today, we see that Isaiah's words were true. Jesus did come. He died, taking the punishment that we deserve so we could be free from sin. He rose from the dead, and will reign for all eternity as our perfect and everlasting King. Everything will be right again. This is good news, indeed.