

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

Ask your class to 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. Ask the partners to choose which person will be the blindfolded person. Next, give each child a marker and ask the partners to stand or sit next to each other. 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.

The nation of Israel was in a state of great darkness. But Isaiah gave them a message of great hope--the Messiah, Jesus, would come. 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 we drew while blindfolded, our lives would 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 make something very beautiful out of our lives.

LESSON TIME!

We live in a world that is not 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—some countries are waging war against their enemies, other countries face economic chaos, and everyone suffers from the consequences of man's sinful heart.

From the Bible, we realize that the troubles and sorrows mankind experiences are a result of broken fellowship with God, which began with the fall of Adam and Eve when sin first entered the world. Suffering as a result of sin and facing future judgment, mankind was in desperate need of a Savior.

In Isaiah, chapter 9, we will look at some glorious prophecies, promises for the future, about the Savior who was yet to come. Today, we enjoy the fulfillment of these prophecies in part—for Jesus did come to take away our sins and restore our fellowship with God—and we look forward to the complete fulfillment—the day when Jesus will reign over the earth.

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.

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 (Isaiah 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. How sad! Whenever God's children sin against Him, going their own way, misery and pain will be the result.

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.

Isaiah speaks prophetically in chapter 9, verse 2. Jesus, the Messiah, would arise from that very area near the sea of Galilee to wipe away gloom and darkness. Not only would those in Galilee see a great light, Jesus would come as the Light of the World (John 1:4, 8:12), bringing hope to all men lost in the darkness of sin and separation from God. Many of you know John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Jesus 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. Has Jesus dispelled the darkness in your life? In 2 Corinthians

4:6 we read, “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” As we put our trust in Jesus Christ, embracing His salvation, light will flood our lives, dispelling the 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 experienced 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). The good news of the Gospel throughout history has brought freedom, joy, hope, and peace. **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 C O U N S E L O R. The person with the "C" could think of "Comes to help when I call," the person with the "O" might come up with "Opens my heart to His love," and the "U" person might think up, "Understands when I hurt," etc. Allow the children to be creative.

After the children have thought of a blessing or promise, ask them to 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 would be born a child unto the nation of Israel; yet from divine perspective, a “Son” would be given—the Son of God who came to bring salvation to the world. This prophecy has both a near and far interpretation; for, speaking of the Kingdom Age—the 1000 year reign of Christ that is yet to come--Isaiah declares, “And the government will be upon His shoulder.” Jesus will reign over God’s people (Micah 5:2) and the world (Zechariah 14:9) in righteousness.

Jesus, the Messiah, will be described as “Wonderful Counselor.” In the Kingdom Age, He will teach the people the ways of God (Isaiah 2:3). To us, who believe in Jesus, He is a “Wonderful” Counselor. When we are troubled, hurt, twisted by sin, Jesus knows just what is wrong with us and just how to fix it! The awesome thing is we can go into the presence of our Wonderful Counselor any time—talk, walk, and spend time with Him—and there are no fees!

He will be called “Mighty God.” He has both the wisdom and the strength to govern His people in the Kingdom Age and to help us now, for He is the “Mighty God.” Not only is Jesus our wonderful counselor who understands our problems and issues, He is “mighty”—all powerful—and can do something about it! He can fix us on the inside; He can fix our circumstances on the outside.

Our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, is also our Everlasting Father. Jesus is one with God. Jesus said Himself, “If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.” As a father lovingly protects and cares for His children, so our Everlasting Father lovingly protects and cares for us.

Finally, the Messiah will also be called the “Prince of Peace.” He will bring to the earth a time of peace as He reigns for 1000 years during the Kingdom Age. As king, He will create, command, and preserve peace for everyone. Today, He is our peace. Real peace will be the experience of those who submit their lives to Him. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). The peace Jesus gives us is not like the peace 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. **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. Sitting upon David’s throne (Luke 1:32-33), His rule will be of peace and justice without end. As we look around at our world, today, and witness the pain and suffering—the tragic results of sin—what a glorious hope sustains us. God has promised peace and justice upon the earth. God’s promises will always come to pass.

What precious prophecies were spoken by Isaiah so many years ago. Indeed, those of us who have looked to Jesus as Lord and Savior have seen a great light and experienced His love, joy, and peace, today. And, the future is bright for us and this troubled world as we anticipate the promise of Christ's future reign of peace and justice. **Jesus brings us hope and peace.**

Jesus desires to be all that He is—the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—to you personally. Someone once said, “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.” Let the light of Jesus shine into your heart!

“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.

Ask the children to choose their favorite name from the list of names for Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 and write the name on the banner along with the scripture reference, Isaiah 9:6. Decorate with the tissue, glitter, or perhaps sequins, stickers, or other decorative things to make their banner look unique.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that God sent Jesus to take away our sins and that He will return once more to reign. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.