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Session	Date	Title	Theme	Verse	Page
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## Unit 1 | God Planned Jesus' Birth

1	December 3, 2023	Isaiah Told about Jesus	♥️🧠 Jesus' birth has always been part of God's plan.	Isaiah 53:6	8
2	December 10, 2023	Gabriel Announced Jesus	🧠 Jesus was born a king and will one day rule on earth.	Matthew 1:21	16
3	December 17, 2023	Mary Praised Jesus	♥️ Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.	John 3:16	22
4	December 24, 2023	Shepherds Visited Jesus	♥️🕊️ Jesus came to bring joy to the world.	Luke 2:11	29

## Unit 2 | God Planned Jesus' Childhood

5	December 31, 2023	Worshipping the King	🕊️ God wants us to worship Jesus.	1 John 4:9	36
6	January 7, 2024	Protecting the King	♥️ God's plan for Jesus could never be stopped.	1 John 4:9	44
7	January 14, 2024	Listening to the King	♥️🧠 God wants us to listen to Jesus.	Luke 2:47	52

## Unit 3 | God Planned Jesus' Ministry

8	January 21, 2024	Jesus Obeyed the Father	♥️🧠 God approved of Jesus' life.	Matthew 3:17	59
9	January 28, 2024	Jesus Fed a Multitude	♥️👍 Jesus loves the needy.	Mark 6:34	67
10	February 4, 2024	Jesus Raised the Dead	♥️ Jesus has the power to give life.	John 11:25	74
11	February 11, 2024	Jesus Caused the Deaf to Hear	♥️ Jesus helped people hear the gospel.	Acts 10:38	82
12	February 18, 2024	Jesus Caused the Blind to See	♥️ Jesus helped people see their need for salvation.	Acts 10:38	89
13	February 25, 2024	Jesus Showed His Glory	♥️🧠 Jesus is the perfect Son of God.	John 1:14	97



# STRONG<sup>®</sup>

## curriculum

A world weak on truth needs a strong, trustworthy message. STRONG Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ.

### A Plan You Can Trust

Regular Baptist Press firmly believes God's Word is living and powerful and more effective than any idea or philosophy man could ever dream up. The Bible is Spirit empowered, so it cannot fail to strengthen kids who interact with its truths. Believing this, we purposefully built Strong Kids on Bible bedrock. We know the curriculum's solid Biblical foundation will make it transformational.

Strong Kids provides each age group with the age-appropriate plan to prepare kids to successfully take the next step in their spiritual growth. The lessons for all five age groups form five steps for building spiritually strong kids.

Strong Kids for Pre-Primaries reinforces foundational Biblical truths concerning creation, Jesus, salvation, and living for God. Recognizing that pre-primaries are starting to understand the need for personal salvation, this curriculum provides opportunities for students to trust in Christ as their Savior and begin to live for Him.

The Strong Kids scope and sequence is built on the seven teaching aims Jesus had during His earthly ministry. Identifying Jesus' aims helps you teach the Bible with purpose and clear goals in sight. Every lesson in the Strong Kids scope and sequence addresses at least one of Jesus' teaching aims.



Look for the BuildUP icons in the table of contents and on the first page of each lesson.

### JESUS' TEACHING AIMS

♥ **Believe the gospel.** Jesus taught His students to understand, believe, and then share the gospel. This aim is obviously fundamental to all the rest.

✚ **Understand Biblical ethics.** Jesus instructed His students to live according to moral values. These values provided them with the tools to make wise decisions.

✚ **Internalize godliness.** Jesus taught His followers to be godly on the inside. He warned them not to become like Pharisees, with a mere outward appearance of godliness.

✚ **Learn doctrine.** Jesus knew the importance of teaching His students the truth and identified doctrine as one of the means for spiritual growth. Wishy-washy doctrine leads to faulty practice.

✚ **Develop life skills.** Jesus taught His followers to meet life's challenges in a way that honored and glorified God. He gave them the skills to navigate those challenges successfully.

👍 **Uplift others.** Jesus' life was all about others. Leading by example, He taught His followers to be all about others too.

✚ **Prepare to serve.** Jesus prepared His followers to serve in the context of local churches that were established soon after His ascension. He emphasized sacrifice and dedication.

# STRONG<sup>®</sup> curriculum

Strong Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ. In this quarter's Strong Kids for Pre-Primaries, children will learn that God planned every detail of Jesus' life on earth—His birth, childhood, and ministry. Students will learn about the fulfillment of the promise given to Isaiah and why they also need the Savior. Lessons on Jesus' miracles emphasize His power as the Son of God.

## Kit Contents

- ☐ Teacher Guide
- ☐ Junior Church Teacher Guide
- ☐ Student Book\*
- ☐ Set of Take-Home Papers\*
- ☐ One Attendance Chart and Sticker Page\*
- ☐ Teaching Picture Book
- ☐ Flannelgraph figures
- ☐ Resource CD with online download code
- ☐ Bible Story DVD
- ☐ *Michael and Emily Storybook*
- ☐ Posters

\*Order additional copies for classroom use.



## Ordering Information

All materials are available from Regular Baptist Press.

- Web: [www.StrongCurriculum.com](http://www.StrongCurriculum.com)
- E-mail: [orders@rbpstore.org](mailto:orders@rbpstore.org)
- Toll-free orders in the United States: 1-800-727-4440
- Fax: 1-847-843-3757
- Canada: Contact your distributor.

## Onetime Purchase (Sold Separately)

- ☐ Strong Kids Music, Vol. 2



## The Doctrinal Basis of Our Curriculum

*A more detailed statement with references is available upon request.*

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|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures</li> <li>• Only one true God</li> <li>• The Trinity of the Godhead</li> <li>• The Holy Spirit and His ministry</li> <li>• The personality of Satan</li> <li>• The Genesis account of creation</li> <li>• Original sin and the fall of man</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The virgin birth of Christ</li> <li>• Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ</li> <li>• The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ</li> <li>• Grace and the new birth</li> <li>• Justification by faith</li> <li>• Sanctification of the believer</li> <li>• The security of the believer</li> <li>• The church</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper</li> <li>• Biblical separation—ecclesiastical and personal</li> <li>• Obedience to civil government</li> <li>• The place of Israel</li> <li>• The pretribulation rapture of the church</li> <li>• The premillennial return of Christ</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The millennial reign of Christ</li> <li>• Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous</li> <li>• Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|---|



# Leading a Young Child to Christ



**P**re-primaries are ages four, five, and six. You may ask, can pre-primaries understand enough about the gospel to be saved? Yes, little children can be saved, but in presenting salvation, the teacher must be careful in her presentation and evaluation of the readiness of the child.

A child from a Christian home with intentional spiritual training will be ready to accept Christ long before a child from an unchurched home or a home with little Bible emphasis.

What if a child does express an interest in accepting the Savior? You must be prepared to ask him questions and to answer his questions. Talk to your department superintendent, an experienced teacher, or the children's pastor. Put together a plan to present the gospel to young children.

Here are some other suggestions to keep in mind.

- Talk with the child in a setting with as few distractions as possible.
- Ask him why he wants to be saved. Be aware that some children want to make the teacher happy. Others want to be able to take communion because their parents do, or they have seen another child do so. Some children want to be baptized because it looks interesting or they have seen a sibling or friend be baptized.
- Give your presentation from God's Word and

let the child see and hear you using it in his presence.

- Read Romans 3:23 and talk about sin. Make sure the child understands and admits that he is a sinner.
- Read Romans 5:8 and John 3:16. Explain that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus took our punishment when He died on the cross.
- Read Romans 10:13. Help the child realize that God has promised to save all those who call on Him.
- Ask the child if he understands that he is a sinner and that Jesus died for him. Ask if he is ready to ask Jesus to forgive his sin and be his Savior.
- Do not pray for the child. Through prayer, have him express in own words his desire to ask Jesus to be his Savior. After he does so, you may pray and ask God to help him learn more about serving God and loving Jesus. Promise to pray for him daily.
- Ask the child to explain to you what he just did.

What if you realize that the child is not ready to be saved or does not understand the meaning of salvation? Talk to the parents and explain that you have discussed salvation with their child and used Scripture to show him from God's Word what it means to be saved. Be honest in telling them that you are not sure he understands what it means to accept Christ as His Savior, but you want to talk with him again, perhaps meeting in his own home.

Do not be discouraged if the child is not ready to be saved. Rejoice in the interest he has shown and plan to talk with him again. You have explained what God's Word says and God's plan for all to be saved. Rejoice that the child has shown interest in salvation. Now you must trust the Holy Spirit to work in the child's heart and mind until he understands salvation without reservation. Remember, you don't save; the children's pastor doesn't save; the parents don't save. God saves.

# The Bible and Pre-Primaries

**W**e believe the Bible is God's inspired word and that it is the only standard for our faith (belief) and practice (behavior). Because the Bible is so important in our lives, we want it to become important to our students. In a pre-primary classroom, what we say about the Bible and how we handle it will communicate how we feel about this book.

We seek to teach the following truths about the Bible to pre-primaries.

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- The Bible is perfect and never changes.
- God wants us to listen to His Word.
- God wants us to learn and obey His Word.



## Using the Bible in the Classroom

When you are telling the Bible story, keep your open Bible on your lap, in your hand, or on the table in front of you. Always tell the story from your open Bible. This is a visual way of emphasizing that you are telling a Bible story. If the lesson is using flannelgraph, place the pieces in your open Bible at the story reference and take them from there to the flannel board. This lets the child know the story is coming from the Bible.

Always read the memory verse from your Bible, even if you know it already. You are emphasizing that this is a Bible verse. Then show the verse visual and as you read it, point to the words.

Use references to the Bible as often as possible during the class activities. In an application setting say, "God's Word tells us to be kind to one another." When looking at creation pictures say, "The Bible tells us God made everything." When you are distributing the snack say, "The Bible says God gives us all things to enjoy." In emphasizing a truth say, "The Bible tells us Jesus is the Son of God."

If children bring their own Bibles, help them understand that their Bibles are the same as your Bible. The verses and the stories are the same.

Remind the children that the Bible is a special book, God's written Word to us, and we need to handle it carefully. We want other people to see that this book is important to us. Use this action rhyme from time to time to remind students of their relationship with God's Word.

I open my Bible so carefully,  
(*Form open book with hands.*)

For it is a special book, you see.  
(*Hold up Bible.*)

It tells me of God and His love for me.  
(*Point up, then to self.*)

I'll sit and listen so carefully.  
(*Use quiet voice.*)

# Basic Supplies for Pre-Primary Teachers

## Teaching Aids

Bible  
Offering container  
Flannelgraph board (26" x 36") (6063)  
CD player  
Pocket chart (8664)  
Word strips (pkg. 75) (8666)

## Paper Products

9" x 12" and 12" x 18" construction paper  
in various colors  
White copy paper  
Butcher paper  
Poster board  
Card stock  
Index cards  
Self-adhesive labels  
Lunch-size paper bags  
6" and 9" paper plates  
Paper cups, napkins, plastic silverware  
Paper towels  
Tissues

## Markers

Pencils; colored pencils  
Crayons; washable paint daubers  
Black and colored felt-tip markers

## Office Supplies

Paper clips  
Brass fasteners  
Rubber bands  
Paper punch  
Cellophane tape  
Double-stick tape  
Masking tape  
Stapler  
Scissors (sharp points for teachers; blunt ends  
for students)

## Adhesives

Glue sticks  
Craft glue  
Sticky tack

## Role Play Items

Child-size mop, broom, etc.  
Dress-up clothes; lengths of fabric  
Plush animals  
Finger puppets  
Nonworking cell phones  
Paper towel or wrapping paper cardboard rolls  
Aluminum foil

## Bulletin Boards

Scalloped Blue Border (8537)  
Scalloped Green Border (8587)  
Scalloped Snowflake Border (8581)  
Blue 3" letters (8510)  
Yellow 3" letters (8513)

## Miscellaneous

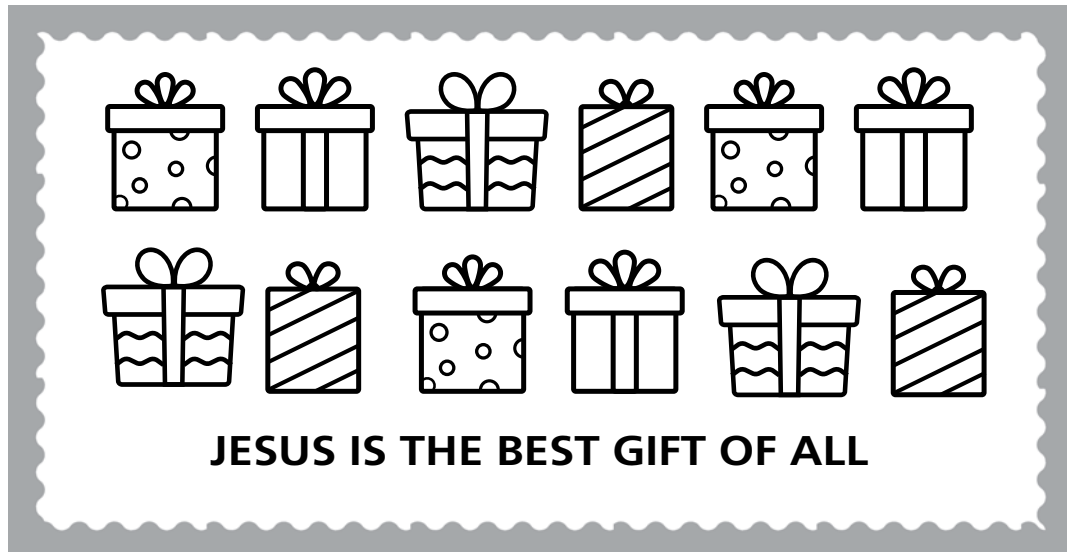
Large blocks; other types of building sets  
Cardboard boxes (all sizes)  
Play-Doh  
Clear Con-Tact paper  
Craft sticks (regular- and jumbo-size)  
Premoistened towels  
Hand sanitizer  
Plastic tablecloths for art or food projects  
Styrofoam  
Large plastic bags or old shirts for smocks  
Ziplock bags (sandwich- and snack-size)  
Watercolor paints and brushes  
Yarn  
Chenille wires  
Cotton balls  
*Note: Products with an order number are available from Regular Baptist Press.*



# Unit Bulletin Boards

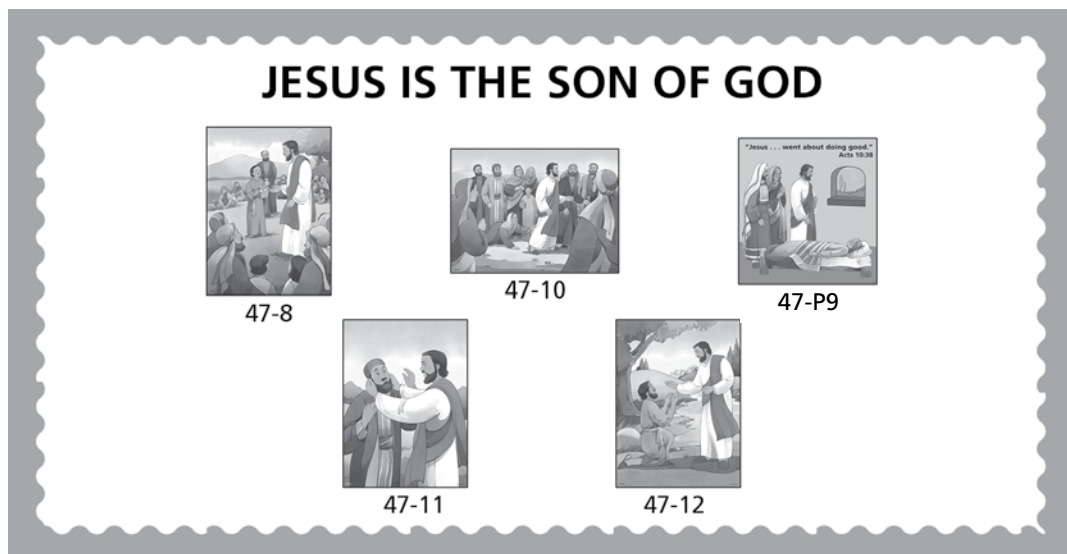
## Units 1 and 2

The seven lessons of units 1 and 2 focus on the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Savior. Use a white background with a scalloped border. (A blue snowflake border and solid blue border are available from RBP: See page 6.) Use 3" EZ blue letters (RBP 8510) to make the title: JESUS IS THE BEST GIFT OF ALL. Print copies of resources 47-R37 through 47-R40. Provide your students with markers and crayons. Have them add color to the packages as you discuss why Jesus is the best gift of all. Consider letting students add Christmas decorations or stickers to their packages. Provide ribbon and bows for added color.



## Unit 3

Before beginning lesson 8, change the bulletin board to emphasize Jesus' ministry. Use a green scalloped border and yellow EZ letters (available from RBP: order 8587 and 8513). Show Jesus' miracles by making copies of teaching pictures 47-8, 47-10, 47-11, 47-12 and poster 47-P9. Mount the title JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD and the pictures. Use the board as a constant review that Jesus did these miracles because He had compassion on people and to show that He is God's Son.



LESSON 1 | UNIT 1

# Isaiah Told about Jesus

Isaiah's predictions concerning Jesus

## Scripture Focus

Isaiah 7:14; 11:1, 2; 35:5, 6a;  
50:5, 6; 53:5, 6

## BuildUP Theme



BELIEVE THE GOSPEL



LEARN DOCTRINE

Jesus' birth has always been part  
of God's plan.

## Measurable Response

The student will thank God for  
His plan to send Jesus.

## Memory Verse

"The LORD has laid on Him the  
iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).  
NKJV

"The LORD has laid on him the  
iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).  
ESV

## Teacher Preparation

Read the Isaiah passages listed in the Scripture focus. The passages predict the coming of the Savior.

We like to make plans. Our society functions by schedules, menus, calendars, forecasts, and itineraries. We like to know what is happening next. But how often our plans fall apart! This lesson is designed to show that God's plans never fail. Since Creation, God planned to send His Son, the Savior. This truth is found throughout the Old Testament.

Younger children do not yet comprehend time and distance. Therefore, the concept of prophecy is difficult to understand. However, children do understand that God is faithful. In previous lessons, we emphasized that God keeps His promises. What God says, He will do. Children have childlike faith in God's promises that adults lack.

As we begin to celebrate Jesus' birth, let's remember that His coming was always God's plan. Help your students see beyond the manger to the Savior who died and rose again.

## Transition from Sunday School

### Snack Time

1. Children should use the restroom and wash hands.
2. Make edible scrolls using two pretzel sticks and fruit roll-ups. Cut roll-ups in strips and wrap the ends of each strip around a pretzel stick. Roll toward the center and tie with a length of licorice. Serve with water.
3. Choose students to help serve the "scrolls" on napkins and cups of water. Choose a volunteer to pray. Talk about how the scrolls roll outwards and what Isaiah wrote on the scroll.



# Guided Play

Guided Play is designed for students to explore the concepts in the Bible lesson for themselves. Choose these ideas or create your own. You may prefer to set up stations that the students can choose from as they finish their snack, or you may conduct of these activities as a group.

## Option 1—Letter Writing

### Gather

- Resource 47-R16.
- Various colors of paper.
- Colored envelopes.
- Stickers to act as stamps.
- Writing supplies: fun pens, markers, colored pencils.

### Steps

1. Before class, create a writing station. Copy writing resource 47-R16 for each child. Provide a variety of fun writing elements: colored pencils, glitter pens, fine-tip markers. Ask for donations of unused or outdated colored or designed envelopes and leftover stickers.
2. Preschoolers love to experiment with the concept of writing. Let them pretend to write sentences, even if they can't form any words. For those who can write words, let them do so, even if they don't make sentences. Provide blank or lined paper for them.
3. Encourage students to print their names at the bottom. Let them trace the word "Love," and add their names at the bottom of the page.
4. Guide students in folding their letters and placing them in envelopes.
5. They may pretend to address and stamp (put a sticker in the upper right corner) on each letter.
6. Encourage the students to give their letter to a parent or grandparent.



47-R16

## Option 2—Christmas Birthday

### Gather

- Red and green birthday decorations (e.g., streamers, balloons, happy birthday banner).
- Red and green construction paper.

- Glue stick.
- Tape; sticky tack.

## Steps

1. Let students help decorate for a Christmas birthday. Let them decide where to put the decorations. In addition, let them make paper chain decorations.
2. Before class, cut the construction paper lengthwise into 1- or 1½-inch strips. Make a sample paper chain, alternating colors.
3. Show students how to make a circle with a strip, glue the ends, and overlap them. Then demonstrate how to thread another strip through the first strip, make a circle, and glue the overlapped ends together.
4. Have several pairs of students working together to make chains and then combine them into longer chains.
5. Discuss birthdays and decorations and Christmas as you work together. Talk about what it might be like to have a birthday at Christmas.
6. Hang the chains around a bulletin board, over a door, around windows. Let students decide.

## Bible Study Review

The same Bible lesson that was taught in Sunday School is included below. Review the key points as you interact with the students.

**Isaiah Told about Jesus (Isa. 7:14; 11:1, 2; 35:5, 6a; 50:5, 6; 53:5, 6)**

## Gather

- Teaching picture 47-1.
- Paper, envelope, pen, sheet of stamps.

We have many ways of sending messages. We could make a phone to call someone, send a text or an email, or write a letter.

**ACTIVITY:** Write a brief message on note paper or copy paper. Fold and place in an envelope. Show students how to print an address and a return address in case the letter can't be delivered. Consider putting a student's address on the letter and sending the letter to him or her through the mail. Have the child bring the letter back to class when after it arrives. Display a sheet of stamps. Talk about how much a stamp costs.

**ASK:** Long ago God sent a very special message. Do you think He sent a text? How about an email? Did He call? How about a letter? *No, of course not.*

**ACTIVITY:** Hold up your Bible. Invite students to hold up their own Bibles if they have them.

This book has all God's messages to us.

**ASK:** How did those messages get in our Bibles? How did God tell the writers of the Bible what He wanted everyone to know? (Let students share their understanding before giving the explanation.)

God told people like Moses, King David, Daniel, Peter, James, and John to write His words. There were other men called "prophets." A prophet is a holy man of God who told God's messages about what would happen in the future.

**ASK:** What is a prophet? (Coach the students to repeat the definition after you.) *A prophet is a man of God who told God's messages about the future.*

**ASK:** How did the prophets know God's messages? Did they make up stories to write down in the Bible? Did they make up something that sounded exciting and then hope that maybe it would come true? *God spoke to the prophets through His Holy Spirit.*

**READ:** 1 Peter 1:21, 22. Emphasize the end of verse 22.

The Holy Spirit guided the hearts and minds of God's prophets. We know that a prophecy, or message, is from God because God's messages *always* come true, or they will come true in the future.

Many, many years went by and then God spoke to a man named Isaiah. He was a prophet who lived in Israel during the time of the kings. Isaiah was God's prophet for forty years.



47-1

**DISPLAY:** Teaching picture 47-1. Note that Isaiah is writing on paper and with ink, but he is using a feather. Show the end of a feather and explain that it is hollow so it could hold the ink, but one could only write one or two words at a time before needing to dip the feather back in the ink.

Isaiah knew God promised to send a Savior. After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised that someday a Savior would come who will take the punishment for our sin. One day, God told Isaiah how He would send the Savior, His Son.

**ASK:** How do you think God sent His Son to earth? In a beautiful golden chariot with white horses? Riding on a lightning bolt? What do you think?



**READ:** Isaiah 7:14.

**ASK:** How did God plan to send His Son? *As a baby to a young, unmarried woman.*

Babies are small and helpless. That's not a very grand way for God to send His Son to earth. But Isaiah didn't question God's message. He wrote exactly what God told him to write.

**ASK:** What did God tell Isaiah that His Son would be called (Isa. 7:14)? *Immanuel.*

The word "Immanuel" means "God is with us." God said His Son would come to live among people, just like you and me.

I'm sure Isaiah was excited to get God's message. He carefully wrote it. Isaiah knew that God always keeps His promises and that God would send His Son when the time was right.

**ASK:** What special holiday celebrates the time when Isaiah's prophecy about God's Son came true? *Christmas.*

Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of God's Son, just as Isaiah predicted. Let's look at God's Word to find out if what Isaiah wrote is really what happened.

**READ:** Luke 1:30, 31; Luke 2:7.

Isaiah wrote the prophecy about Jesus more than 700 years before Jesus was born. But it all came true, just as God had promised. Jesus' birth has always been part of God's plan. Even before the planets were formed or the earth was made, God planned to send His Son, Jesus, to be born as a baby and become the Savior of the world.

God spoke more messages to Isaiah about His Son.

**READ:** Isaiah 35:5, 6.

**ASK:** How would Jesus prove He is God's Son? *Jesus would make the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk.*

Let's go to God's Word to see if those miracles really happened like God said they would.

**READ:** Matthew 11:4, 5.

Jesus healed people and did many more miracles to show everyone that He is the Savior God promised through Isaiah.

God went on to tell Isaiah how the Savior would give His life to pay the price for our sin.

**READ:** Isaiah 53:5.

God told Isaiah that the Savior would be wounded, or pierced, by a spear. When Jesus was on the cross, after He had died, a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear (John 19:32–34). It was just as God had told Isaiah 700 years earlier.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember that Jesus' birth has always been part of God's plan. But Jesus didn't come to stay a sweet baby in the manger. He came to pay the price on the cross for our sin. Isaiah had written hundreds of years earlier that the Lord will lay on Him the sins of us all (Isa. 53:6). Jesus died for our sins on the cross because He loves us. He took the punishment for your sin and mine so we wouldn't need to suffer the penalty for our sins.

Let's thank God for sending Jesus, just like He planned.

**PRAY:** Close in prayer.

## Application Story

### Gather

- Michael and Emily Storybook.

### Waiting for Someone Special

One, two, three, four, five," Emily counted as she pointed to the calendar. "Only five more days until Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbie come for Christmas!"

"Mommy, what time do you think they will get here?" asked Michael.

"Well, they should get here in the afternoon. Maybe before dinner," Mommy answered. "Why?"

"Emily and I have plans for them. After dinner, if there is snow, Uncle Doug said we could go moonlight sledding!" answered Michael.

"Aunt Debbie and I are going to bake Christmas cookies and she is going to teach me how to braid my doll's hair and we are going to watch a Christmas movie together and we are going to make Christmas crafts!" Emily was so excited.

Mommy laughed, "Goodness, you certainly have big plans for Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbie. I should warn them to rest up before they come!"

"No. It's okay. We are just excited," Emily smiled.

Finally only one more day remained. Emily and Michael went to bed that night, thinking of fun.

The next morning Emily got out of bed, went to the window in the living room, and looked out. It was still dark, but she saw it was snowing. It looked pretty. Soon, Michael and Mommy got up. Mommy saw Emily at the window.

"What do you see out there, Emily?" Mommy asked.

"I'm just waiting for Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbi. I'm watching it snow. It's so pretty," Emily answered.

"Emily, they aren't going to be here for hours. You don't need to stand there all day. I don't remember snow being in the forecast."

Mommy got coffee and made pancakes. She sat down on the sofa with her coffee and turned on the TV.

"The snow line has shifted. It looks like heavy snow today," the weatherman stated. "The north side of the state will get even more snow! And there is strong wind"

Mommy shook her head. "Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbie live north of us. I hope they left early."

Michael and Daddy went out to shovel snow. Emily tried to help Mommy, but she kept running to the window to see if the snow had stopped.

They had lunch but the snow came heavier and faster. The wind picked up. Daddy went out to run the snowblower.

Mommy's cellphone rang. "Are you okay? Yes, I think that's best. Stay safe. Love you. Bye."

Mommy turned to Michael and Emily. "Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbie can't see the road because of the blowing snow. They decided to stay in a hotel and try tomorrow."

Michael complained. "I had everything all planned. What about moonlight sledding?"

Daddy came in and said the snow was very deep. "We don't want Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbie to get stuck in the snow on the road. They will get here when the plows have a chance to clear the roads. God will work it out. The storm surprised us, but it didn't surprise God."

"We learned about Isaiah the prophet in Sunday School. God told him that His Son, Jesus, would be born to a virgin. His name would be Emmanuel. Our teacher said Isaiah predicted Jesus' birth hundreds of years before He was born! Imagine waiting hundreds of years," Michael exclaimed.



"That would be awful," Emily said.

Daddy continued. "The promise goes farther back than Isaiah. Remember when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden? God told His plan to send His Son to earth to take care of our sin! God kept the promise when Jesus was born."

Michael shouted. "I'm glad we still aren't waiting!"

At dinnertime, snow kept falling. They prayed for Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbie. Then everyone went to bed.

The next morning Emily ran to the window and saw a snowplow go by their house. Just then, a red car pulled up.



47-ME1

Emily gasped, "THEY'RE HERE! THEY'RE HERE!" (Show picture 47-ME1.)

Mommy was making coffee. Daddy was shoveling again.

"What's going on?" Michael muttered.

"They're here!" Emily shrieked.

Michael and Emily ran to the living room window and waved. Uncle Doug and Aunt Debbi waved back as they got out of car. Daddy opened the front door and shook Uncle Doug's hand. Mommy hugged Aunt Debbie.

"Wow, you started early," Mommy remarked.

"Early this morning, we saw that the plows had cleared the roads, so we took off," Uncle Doug high-fived Michael.

Emily shouted: "I've been waiting forever. Well, almost."

## Questions

1. Who were Emily and Michael waiting for? *Aunt Debbie and Uncle Doug.*
2. Why did it take so long for them to get there? *There was a bad snowstorm.*
3. How long did God's people have to wait for Jesus to come? *Hundreds of years.*
4. What was Michael glad about? *They didn't have to wait for Jesus to come. God had kept His promise.*