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Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:1-46

Theme: There is one true God -- all others are false

4th-6th Grade (Ages 9-11)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Sunday School Lesson Overview: "Isaiah's Prophecy, A Child Is Born!" (Based on Isaiah 9:1-7 , The Promise of Jesus as the Light of the World) Lesson Hook (Engage): "Imagine you're living in a dark, cold place where people are scared, like a long time ago when Israel was in trouble. God promised a baby would come who would bring light, kindness, and victory. That baby? He was Jesus! Today, we'll see how Isaiah's words pointed to Him, and how that promise is still true today!" Lesson Breakdown: 1. A Promise in the Dark Isaiah wrote this message during a time when Israel was in hardship, war, poverty, and fear made life feel hopeless. God spoke to Isaiah through a vision: "A child will be born who will bring everlasting peace!" (Isaiah 9:6b). Even though the world around them was broken, God gave hope through a tiny baby, like a spark in the dark! Deeper Question: Why do you think God chose a baby instead of a grown man to bring peace? Personal Application: How can we share hope, like Jesus, when we see people struggling? 2. A Leader Who Cares Isaiah described this child as "wise and mighty," meaning He would be strong and make wise choices (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus was both a king (He ruled with love) and a servant (He helped others). When we see Jesus as both, we see someone who gets us, He understands our struggles and loves us even when we mess up! Deeper Question: What does it mean that Jesus is "wise"? How can we grow in wisdom like Him? Personal Application: How can we show "wisdom" in our words or actions this week? 3. A Light for All The Bible says Jesus is "the true Light" who gives us light to see God's way (John 8:12). In Isaiah's time, people lit lanterns to see at night, but Jesus is like a sun that shines forever, even in the darkest days. His light doesn't just help us; it shows others how to trust God! Deeper Question: What's one way Jesus' light has helped you this week? Personal Application: How can we share our "light" (God's love) with someone this weekend? 4. God Keeps His Promises! Isaiah didn't just write this prophecy, God fulfilled it through Jesus! That's amazing because God doesn't lie. Even if we don't see His promises yet (like healing, peace, or answers), we can trust that He keeps His word. Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago, but His promise is still alive today! Deeper Question: What are some promises God has made to you (or your family)? How can you trust Him like Isaiah did? Personal Application: This week, write down one promise from God you want to remember, like a "light" in your heart! Closing Encouragement (Wrap-Up): "Today, we

learned God's word is true! Just like Isaiah wrote, a baby (Jesus) came to bring light, wisdom, and peace. No matter what's dark in your world, His promise is still here, waiting for you to claim it! Let's pray together: 'God, thank You for Your promise. Help me trust You like Isaiah did.' Amen!" Teacher Tips: - Use a flashlight or glow sticks to symbolize Jesus as "light." - Sing a simple hymn like "This Little Light of Mine" to reinforce the theme. - End with a quick discussion: "Who in the Bible trusted God like Isaiah?" (E.g., Noah, Abraham, Moses.)

Bible Story

Sunday School Lesson: "A Light in the Dark" (Based on Isaiah 9:1, 7)

Long ago, in a land called Judah, there was a time of great trouble. Many people were sad, afraid, and even worried about the future. The Bible tells us that God's people were like sheep without a shepherd, and their leaders didn't care for them. Even their king, Ahaz, was worried and afraid, so much so that he didn't trust God to help. But God had a plan.

That's when a prophet named Isaiah walked into the king's palace. Ahaz was scared, but Isaiah spoke words of hope: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. Those who live in a land of deep darkness will see a bright light." (Isaiah 9:2). Isaiah wasn't just talking about the next day or the next week, he was pointing to a future when God would shine his light into the world.

God often does something big when people are small and afraid. Isaiah wasn't sure what would happen next, but he knew God's promises were true. Later, Isaiah would say more about this light in a baby born in Bethlehem. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6). Even in a time of trouble, God was preparing a way for hope to come.

Deeper Questions: 1. What do you think made Ahaz so afraid? Why do you think God needed to speak to him? 2. How does Isaiah's prophecy sound like a promise? What does it tell us about God? 3. What does it mean that this baby would be called "Everlasting Father"? How does that change how we think about God?

Personal Application: This passage reminds us that God doesn't always fix things right away, but when we're scared, he sends his light. Sometimes, like Isaiah, we don't know how things will turn out, but we can trust that God has a plan. Next time you feel worried or lonely, ask: "Is there someone in this story who reminds me of God's promise?" Who is he? (It could be Jesus, the baby Isaiah talked about!)

Why This Story Matters: Isaiah's prophecy isn't just about a long-ago time, it's about us. The "Wonderful Counselor" and "Prince of Peace" who came as a baby was Jesus, who brings hope, healing, and peace to our lives. Just like Isaiah told the people to wait for God's light, we can trust that God is always with us, even in the darkest times. The question is: Will we believe?

Key Verse

1 Kings 18:39

Here's a simple yet meaningful explanation of Isaiah 9:6 for upper elementary kids, along with questions and ways to apply it in their lives: God's Gift of Peace and Love Imagine a big, warm hug from someone who cares deeply, maybe a friend, a parent, or even a favorite superhero who always has your back. That's what God promises through His Son, Jesus. Isaiah 9:6 tells us that Jesus is like that perfect hug: He comes to be with us, and His love is stronger than any worry or fear. This verse is especially special because it reminds us that even when things feel dark or confusing, Jesus is always there to help us. The verse says, "To us a child is born", that means Jesus was born as a baby, just like you, but He's different because He is God's Son. "A son is given" means He's our special friend forever, just like how a favorite sibling or cousin is always there to cheer you on. And "the government will be on His shoulders" is a little tricky, but it's a way of saying Jesus rules the whole world with kindness and fairness. Think of it like a superhero with a shield, He protects us from evil and makes everything better. A Question for You: If Jesus is like a superhero who always helps, what's one thing He could protect you from right now? How could He help you feel brave or brave enough to try something new? Why Jesus

Matters Jesus isn't just a distant figure in the Bible, He lived on Earth as a real person, and He died to take away sin (like when we mess up and need forgiveness). But after He rose from the dead, He promised to stay with us forever. This verse shows us that even when things feel scary (like when you're nervous to sing in front of your class or when friends are mean), Jesus is there to hold your hand. He's like a warm blanket on a cold night, a safe place to run when life feels overwhelming. A Deeper Question: What's something in your life that feels heavy or hard right now? How can you ask Jesus to help you, even if you're afraid to talk to Him? Applying God's Love You can start "applying" this verse today by being kind to someone who needs a hug, maybe a sibling, a teacher, or even a pet! Jesus wants us to show love too, just like He does. You could also draw a picture of Jesus or write a thank-you note to Him for being your friend. It's like giving a gift to someone you love: you show your heart in small ways. A Personal Challenge: Today, think of one way you can be brave or kind, just like Jesus would be. Then tell God, "Thank You for loving me like that!" You don't even have to say it out loud, just imagine whispering it to Him in your heart. Why It Matters in the End This verse is also a promise for the future. One day, God will make everything perfect again, and Jesus will rule the world with justice and peace (no more sadness, pain, or evil!). Until then, we live with hope, knowing Jesus is always near. Imagine what it would be like to live in a world where everyone gets treated fairly, and no one has to be scared. Jesus makes that dream real! Final Thought: If you could ask Jesus one thing right now, what would you want to know? What would you want Him to do for you? His love is big enough to answer all your questions and hold you up when you need it most. Would you like help praying together or brainstorming ways to share this with a friend? You're never too small to talk to God!

Activities

Activity 1:

Students create a simple stained glass-style design of the promised Messiah using tissue paper, scissors, and glue, then discuss how His birth fulfills Isaiah's words.

1. Introduce the Lesson: Read Isaiah 9:6 aloud, emphasizing verses like "a child is born to us" and "his government will be on his shoulders." Ask: "How does this prophecy sound like a promise of hope?"
2. Design the Messiah: Give each child a square of tissue paper (cut into small pieces) and a cardstock base. Have them tear or cut tissue paper to create a colorful "stained glass" design of Jesus' head, shoulders, and a halo (symbolizing His divine role).
3. Glue & Decorate: Let students glue their designs onto the cardstock. While drying, ask: "Why might Isaiah describe Jesus as 'a sign' (Isaiah 9:2)? How does that tie to His birth?"
4. Reflect & Share: After drying, have students color the outline of their Messiah with markers. Discuss: "How does knowing Jesus was born as a child change how we see His mission? Can you think of one way to share His love this week?"

Activity 2:

Students create a chain of paper links, each representing a key part of Isaiah's prophecy, to visually reinforce how the birth of Jesus fulfills God's promises.

1. Review the Passage: Read Isaiah 9:1, 7, pausing to highlight key phrases ("a child is born," "wonderful counselor," "everlasting Father"). Ask: "Which words stand out to you? Why?"
2. Create the Chain: Each student takes a paper strip and writes one promise from Isaiah 9:6 on it (e.g., "a child is born," "wonderful counselor," "everlasting Father"). They punch a hole at the top and connect their strip to the next child's, forming a loop.
3. Discuss the Chain: Walk around the circle, reading each link aloud. Ask: "How does Jesus' birth make these promises real? What does it mean that He was born as a baby?"
4. Personalize & Share: Have students write a short response on the back of their strip: "One way I can 'wear' this promise this week is..." Encourage them to share one takeaway with a partner.
5. Why These Work:
6. Stained Glass Messiah uses art to visually connect the prophecy to Jesus, while the discussion invites students to ponder how a child's birth reveals His divine nature.

7. Messiah's Promise Chain turns abstract words into a tangible, collaborative experience, reinforcing the idea that God's promises are fulfilled in Christ.
8. Both activities balance creativity, Bible study, and personal reflection, perfect for keeping upper elementary kids engaged! Would you like adaptations for larger groups or time adjustments?

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for upper elementary students (ages 9-11) based on Isaiah's Prophecy, A Child Is Born (Isaiah 9:1-7). Each question invites reflection, deeper thinking, and personal application while keeping the conversation engaging and meaningful.
- 1. Hope in Hard Times
 - "Isaiah was writing during a time when many people in Israel were struggling, war, exile, and hardship. He talks about a baby being born who would bring hope and peace. What are some things in your own life or in the world today that feel heavy or uncertain? How can a promise of hope from God help us when things don't go as we expect?"
 - (Deeper question: If you had to explain this promise to a friend who feels afraid, what would you say? How does this make you feel about God's love in tough situations?)
- 2. The Power of a Baby's Name
 - "Isaiah says this baby will be called 'Wonderful Counselor,' 'Mighty God,' and 'Everlasting Father.' Why do you think God would give this child such special names? How do these names describe what the baby would do or who he would be?"
 - (Deeper question: If you could name a person who has brought you comfort or strength, what would you call them? Why does a name matter? How does God's name in Isaiah show us He is always with us.)
- 3. Why Does This Story Matter Today?
 - "Isaiah's prophecy was written thousands of years ago, but his words about peace and justice still feel important today. If you could ask God one question about this prophecy, what would it be? For example, 'How do we know this promise is still true?' or 'How can we live like Jesus when we don't always see change happen quickly?'"
 - (Personal application: Think of a time when you felt like God was keeping His promises. What was happening, and how did you feel? How can we trust God's promises even when things feel unclear.)
- 4. How Does This Story Change Us?
 - "Isaiah's prophecy reminds us that God doesn't always fix things instantly, sometimes He sends hope in the form of a baby who would later grow up to bring salvation. How does this idea that God's plans sometimes take time make you feel? What does it teach you about trusting God even when things seem slow or hard?"
 - (Deeper question: If you had to explain this to a younger child who is worried about big problems in the world, how would you say it? How does this story help us be brave in our own lives?)
 - These questions encourage students to connect the Bible story to their own lives, ask thoughtful questions, and reflect on how faith and hope can change their hearts and actions. Would you like any adjustments to fit a specific lesson focus?

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus for Upper Elementary: "A Light in the Darkness" "Dear Heavenly Father, You are the same God who guided ancient prophets like Isaiah to share Your truth with the world. Today, we remember how You promised a baby, Jesus, to bring hope, peace, and light into a world full of shadows. Just like Isaiah wrote, You made it clear that even when things seem dark, Your love shines brightest through Jesus. Help us, Lord, to trust in You and share Your kindness with others, just as Jesus did for us. Thank You for giving us a Savior who shows us how to

love, forgive, and believe in You. Amen." *Reflection Questions for Discussion:* 1. Why do you think God wanted to send Jesus as a baby? (Hint: Think about how babies can help families and communities!) 2. Isaiah said Jesus would be called "Wonderful Counselor", what does that mean to you? Can you think of someone who helps you make good choices? 3. How can we be like Jesus in small ways, like when He was a child? 4. When do you feel like the world is dark or hard? How can remembering Jesus' promise help you? *Personal Application:* "Jesus, You promised to be with us always, even when life feels confusing. Help me today to trust that Your love is stronger than any fear or doubt. When I'm feeling lonely, remind me that You created me for a reason, and You love me exactly as I am. Thank You for being my light!" *Why This Works:* - *Connection to Prophecy:* Ties the biblical promise to real-life trust (e.g., "Your love shines brightest"). - *Emotional Anchor:* Uses "shadows" and "light" to evoke empathy for Isaiah's audience. - *Actionable:* Encourages kids to pray with specific questions (e.g., "Who helps me make good choices?"). - *Simple Devotion:* Invites them to "share Your kindness" like Jesus modeled. *Tip for the Teacher:* End the prayer with a group response: "What's one way we can 'be like Jesus' this week?" Let students share aloud!

>> Missions Spotlight

In Israel today, many Jewish people are reading the prophets with fresh eyes. Messianic congregations are growing as more Jewish people recognize that Isaiah's prophecies point to Yeshua (Jesus). Pray for the salvation of God's chosen people.

-> To the Cross

Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before Jesus was born. 'For to us a child is born... and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' This is Jesus, fully God and fully human, born to bring peace between God and us.