

# Second Sunday of Advent

*And a little child shall lead them.*—Isaiah 11:6 NRSV

## Explore

picture of a baby,  
index cards, pens,  
tape

### Hope Is a Newborn Baby!

Before class, look through current magazine advertisements to locate a picture of a healthy baby. Provide each student with an index card and pen. Ask students to look at the picture for a minute. Ask: “What is your hope for this child?” Allow time for students to write their responses on the cards. Tape the picture to the wall. Then have students share their hopes and tape them under the picture.

## Extract

### A New King: A Messiah

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. (Show students this location on a Bible map.) His country had lived through fifty years of prosperity and fame and had become a great power in Bible times. Judah’s territory was at a commercial crossroads and commerce was well developed. Trade from other countries brought in foreign fashions and increasing tastes for luxury. The privileged class of people were making lots of money at the expense of the poor. All the happenings created a decrease in their spirituality and the people, as a whole, turned from Yahweh to power and greed forgetting what God had done for them in the past. Injustice prevailed. Isaiah was a man from this city, at home in court life, a friend to the king of Judah, and counsel to his government. Isaiah was also a prophet, a person who spoke for God, and he remembered God’s covenant with the people of Judah. Outraged at the corruption, he called for the people to change and prophesied that a new era would come led by a greater king, one whom the spirit of the Lord would rest on. Isaiah found hope in the future. Select a volunteer to read Isaiah 11:1–10. Ask students to listen for words of hope from this Old Testament passage.

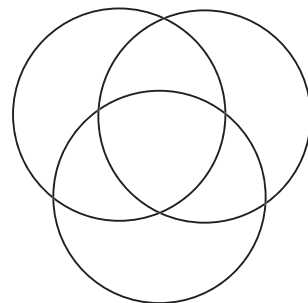
Bible, Bible map,  
Book of Mormon,  
flip chart, marker

Isaiah 11:1–10  
Matthew 3:1–12/  
3:27–39 IV  
II Nephi 9:117–124  
Romans 15:4–13

In Matthew 3:1–12/3:27–39 IV, we read about John the Baptist’s understanding of one who would come to change the conditions of his time. Read this New Testament passage. Listen for John’s words of hope. How do they differ from Isaiah’s? II Nephi reiterates Isaiah’s words in a new context. Ask a volunteer to read II Nephi 9:117–124. Then draw the diagram below on a flip chart. Compare John’s description of the Messiah to Isaiah’s new king and the II

Isaiah  
Hope for a New King

John the Baptist  
Hope for the Messiah



II Nephi  
Hope from the stem  
of Jesse

Nephi passage. Where the circles overlap, write what the scriptures share in common. Where they differ, add comments to the appropriate circle.

Hope was again expressed as Paul wrote to the Romans encouraging them to live in harmony “in accordance with Christ Jesus.” Paul took the vision of hope to the Gentile population. Read Romans 15:4–13, noting Paul’s use of the Hebrew scriptures from Isaiah that he learned in his youth.

**Experience**

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### Wolves, Lambs, Leopards, Goats, Bears, Cows, and a Child

Isaiah and II Nephi paint an unlikely picture based on what we know of animal instinct, yet both scriptures say there is hope for harmony and peace within this collection—a peaceable kingdom among predator and prey or oppressed and oppressor. In the twenty-first century we are reminded to find hope in pursuing the peaceable kingdom:

Bible, Book of Mormon, heavy drawing paper or posterboard, a variety of art supplies (check the activity), tape or pins for mounting

The church seal of the Community of Christ illustrates one interpretation of the vision of the peaceable kingdom. How would you illustrate these scriptures so others may see the vision of hope? Provide materials for individual drawings or work in small groups and illustrate mini-murals on posterboard. Provide a variety of mediums—water colors, charcoal, pen and ink, magazine pictures with scraps of tissue paper glued on top with a wash of glue and water, crayons, or markers. When students finish, ask them to share their visioning of hope for the world based on the scriptures. Find a prominent place to display their expressions for the congregation.

### Giving Hope to Others

Hope is a powerful, living word. It fills an individual with the feeling that what is desired is also a possibility. Hope is a force that God provides so we can deal with a situation that is not yet a reality. We have faith now and hope for the future. The child Jesus, around which the Advent season centers, is the beginning of hope. Jesus came to model for us how to live, walk, talk, and hope.

Bible

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.—John 3:16 NRSV*

John 3:16

Joel 3:16

*The Lord will be the hope of his people.—Joel 3:16 IV*

How can the class respond to the challenge to live, walk, and talk as Jesus did and bring hope to the lives of others? A place to begin is today's offering. Create a class project that brings hope to the lives of others in your community. (Before class, check in your community to identify areas where the class can participate.)

**Expand**

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### My Hope

On the paper provided ask students to respond to this question: "What gives me hope for the future?" or "Where is my place in the peaceable kingdom?" Listen to meditative music. Read Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 as a closing prayer.

pens, paper  
Bible, CD Player,  
CD of Meditative  
music

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**Lectionary scriptures**—Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:27–39 IV/3:1–12 others; II Nephi 9:117–124; Doctrine and Covenants 10:6–7