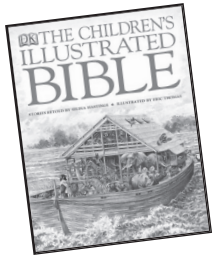


First Sunday of Advent



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 154

Here is Isaiah's vision: The Lord's house is on the greatest mountain of all. Many people will say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. The Lord will teach us the right ways so we can follow God's paths." God shall judge between the nations and shall settle problems; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations will not lift up their swords against nation, and they won't learn about war any more. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

—Isaiah 2:1-5 adapted



Jesus Is Coming!

Centuries before Jesus, people prophesied that a special king, born as a baby, would come to save his people. Isaiah was one of these prophets.

Show the drawing of Isaiah in *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, page 154, and read the top paragraph only. Then ask a child to read Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 2:1-5.

Give kids drawing paper and markers, crayons, or colored pencils. Have them create a drawing of the Lord's house on top of the greatest mountain. They may also add the people of all nations going up to the Lord's house. Read the scripture again to inspire their drawing. When done, have kids display their drawings.

Give kids soft modeling clay. Have them make swords and spears, as the scripture describes, or a model of any weapon they think of, ancient or modern. After they describe their weapon, read the scripture again. What does it mean to beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks? What are plowshares and pruning hooks used for? (tools for growing) Have kids reform their clay weapons into tools for peace and growth such as medical, educational, or other tools. Discuss their creations when done. These tools represent the scripture which says that God will settle arguments between nations, and we will find peace when we go to the Lord to learn peace.

Isaiah Says

Play a game to learn what Isaiah prophesied about Jesus. On index cards, write the scriptures below and distribute a card to each kid in class. Play a game like "Simon Says." Say "Isaiah says ... that God would send a savior called the Prince of Peace." Kids look at their cards. Whoever has the right scripture jumps up and shouts "Amen!" and the game continues until all scriptures are read. Kids may hold more than one scripture card. Isaiah says,

For unto us a child is born; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.—*Isaiah 9:6*

Watch for a young woman who will have a son and name him Immanuel.—*Isaiah 7:14*

He will feed his flock like a shepherd.—*Isaiah 40:11*

God will send them a savior.—*Isaiah 19:20*

This child's authority shall grow and there shall be endless peace. He will uphold it with justice and with righteousness forevermore.—*Isaiah 9:7*

A new little shoot will grow from the Jesse tree, and the spirit of the Lord will be on him—wisdom, understanding, strength, knowledge and awesomeness of the Lord.—*Isaiah 11:1, 2*

Advent Begins

Advent means "coming" and is the root of the word "adventure." Jesus' coming—Christmas—is an adventure to prepare for.

Have kids make Advent candleholders from air-drying clay. The candleholder should have places for four candles. A fifth candle goes in the center—the Christ candle—lit on Christmas. Give kids a candle each week to fit into their Advent candleholder.

Isaiah was a prophet 700 years before Jesus. He gave prophecies that Jesus was coming.

To us a child is born.



“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. The Lord will teach us the right ways so we can follow God’s paths.”

—Isaiah 2:1 adapted

Jesus’ Names

Color in all the names that have been used for Jesus:

Savior
Prince of Peace
Everlasting Father
shepherd
son, Lord
Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God
Immanuel
best friend

Get Ready for Jesus! What Will You Do?

- Help decorate your home.
- Practice Christmas play.
- Make a Christmas list of gifts to give.
- Make something for your family or friend.
- Save money to buy gifts.
- Read more about Jesus.
- Invite a friend to church.
- Your ideas:
