

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of January 14, 2018

Timeless Truth: God's saving power is great.

Bible Basis: Isaiah 3:1-13, 14:1-5, 49:8-9, 53:1-12

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 16 The Beginning of the End

Memory Verse: This was to make what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah come true. It says, "Here is my servant. I have chosen him. He is the one I love. I am very pleased with him. I will put my spirit on him." Matthew 12:17-18



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

Israel and Judah followed other gods and ignored the one true God. The sins of the people of Israel caused God to allow them to be taken to Assyria. The prophet Isaiah warned the people of Judah about what would happen if they continued their bad decisions. He told the people the truth, even though the truth was difficult.

- Have you ever told the truth, even though it was hard?
- Have you ever tried to stop a friend from making a bad decision?
- What did you say or do to change your friend's mind?
- Why is it important to always speak the truth?

EXTRA MILE

God gave Isaiah great insight to write about the future and the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Test your ability to predict the future by playing this game as a family. All you need is a coin. Have family members pair up. If there's an odd number of people the person who sits out automatically wins and advances to the next round. Have one person flip and the other person call "heads" or "tails." The winner is the one who guesses the best three-out-of-five flips correctly. Continue playing until there is one grand champion. When you're finished, read this:

The book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies about Jesus.

- Isaiah 7:14 says Jesus will be born of a virgin
- Isaiah 35:5-6 says when Jesus comes the blind will see and the deaf will hear.
- Isaiah 53:12 says Jesus will die with criminals.

There are more than ten different prophecies recorded in Isaiah. The chances of guessing a flipped coin correctly are 50 percent. That means you have a 1 in 2 chance of being right. Mathematician Peter Stoner figured out the chances of one man in all of history fulfilling just eight prophecies. The probability is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 - that's 17 zeros! Jesus is truly amazing. He didn't fulfill just eight prophecies written hundreds of years before his birth - he fulfilled nearly 50! That's an awesome God. It didn't happen by chance. It was all part of God's plan.

PRAYER TIME

You are awesome, God! The Story, His Story is an amazing account of your love for your people. You loved them and took care of them even when they disobeyed you. You did this time after time with the people of the Bible, and you do it time after time with me. Thank you for loving me enough to send your Son to be my Savior. Help me to follow you and to make decisions that are pleasing to you. I love you, Lord. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *Penalties of Disobeying*, pg 116 – through top of pg 118 (blue–pg 131 – top of pg 133) (2 mins)

This reading covers: Isaiah 3

Summary: Isaiah says there will be consequences if God’s people don’t change.

Do together: Play “I Spy.” Take turns picking some object in the room and telling everyone, “I spy something you don’t see and its color is…” Everyone else keeps guessing what it is until they figure it out.

Think about: What does a red stop light at a busy intersection warn you to do? How about a “Caution Wet Floor” sign in a restaurant? Are such warnings for our own good? What could happen if we don’t pay attention to them? The same thing happened in The Story. Isaiah was a prophet. He knew what bad things would happen to God’s people if they didn’t change their ways, and he tried to warn them. Did they listen? What were some bad things that Isaiah said would happen? Should we pay attention to what the Bible says to us?

Also read: Colossians 1:25-28

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thanks for giving us the Bible in which you warn us about things we shouldn’t do and teach us the way you want us to live. I pray in your name. Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *Words of Hope*, top of page 118 – through break on pg 119 (blue- top of pg 133 – break on pg 134) (2 min)

This reading covers: Isaiah 14, 19

Summary: Isaiah tells God’s people about the love God will show in the future.

Do together: Draw a picture of a fortune teller and his crystal ball. Isaiah didn’t use pretend magic to predict the future like a fortune teller. Isaiah knew what would happen ahead of time, because God gave him that information through his thoughts and dreams.

Think about: Remember the story about Cinderella? It’s really sad at first when Cinderella has to work hard and gets teased by her mean stepsisters, but it has a happy ending. What happens? Well, what happened to Israel is sort of like that. Because of all of their sinning, they had lots of trouble, but Isaiah could see the future and knew there would once again be happier times. They would get to go back to their homeland and would once again put their trust in God. Can we always trust God? Is there ever a time – even when you do something bad – that God doesn’t love you?

Also read: Psalm 9:10; Isaiah 40:31

Prayer: Thank you, dear Father, for loving me so much that even when I do things that make you sad, you never leave me. I know I can always trust you to be with me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *Punished for You* –break on pg 119 - end (blue – break on pg 134- end) (4 mins)

This reading covers: Isaiah 53

Summary: Isaiah tells about a time in the future when God will make the perfect sacrifice.

Do together: Talk about your family rules. What are the three most important rules? What are the benefits for following these rules? What are the consequences for disobeying them? If you break a rule, who must pay the penalty? What would you think if you broke a rule and someone else offered to pay the penalty?

Think about: When Isaiah talks about the servant who was pierced because we had sinned and who was punished to make us whole again, who is he talking about? How did Isaiah know all those things about Jesus when Jesus hadn’t even been born yet? Do you think the people were happy when they heard about God’s plan to save them through Jesus? Does knowing Jesus died on the cross for you make you happy?

Read also: John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Prayer: Jesus, it makes me smile when I realize how much you love me. Thank you for being my friend, and thank you for being my Savior. I pray in your name. Amen.