



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for December 19, 2010
Released on Wednesday, December 15, 2010**

"God's Servant" (Christmas)

Lesson Text: Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:1-8

Background Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-9; Matthew 1:18-25

Memory Verse: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 - Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11:1-8

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2 - And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3 - And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 - But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 - And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 - The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 - And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 - And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

TEACHER'S NOTES

This lesson is unique in that it focuses almost entirely on one verse—Isaiah 9:6, the memory verse. For it is God the Father's own description of the One who would come into the world to be His Servant.

First God told Isaiah that the One who later would be known as Jesus is "wonderful." We often use that word in the sense of being very good. We say the Christmas play was wonderful. Someone's concern for a needy family was wonderful. Even a dinner was wonderful. However, the word used actually suggests something more than very good.

In the Bible, "wonderful" is used to translate at least seven different words. It is both interesting and delightful to discover that when God applied "wonderful" to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6, the word He chose refers to things that are miracles and cause a response of astonishment.

The four other descriptive terms used in Isaiah 9:6 also throw light on the character of God's Servant. He is called "Counselor." Because of who He is, no better counselor can be found. He has the solution to every human problem, including the most serious problem of all—what to do with sin. The human race would be wise to listen when Jesus says, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

"The mighty God" (Isa. 9:6) leaves no question as to who God's Servant was and is. A teacher? Yes, but He was more than a teacher. A prophet, a healer, a good example? Absolutely, but He was far more. God in human form was walking the hills of Galilee and Judea when Jesus walked there. And the mighty miracles He was able to perform confirmed His identity.

He is the "everlasting Father" (Isa. 9:6) as well, an expression that can include but also goes beyond family relationship. "By him were all things created, . . . visible and invisible, . . . and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17). He is the Parent, the Founder, the Leader, the Head, the Judge, the Source of all. He stands alone. He is Number One, and He will be Number One forever.

Finally, God the Father called His Servant the "Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). He has made possible peace with God for believers now (Rom. 5:1). He will make possible world peace when He sits on the throne as Israel's King. He will bring quietness, rest, and blessing to the entire earth (Isa. 11:6-10).

At first this lesson may seem entirely unrelated to Christmas, but in fact the manger is exactly where it leads. The Servant, the miraculous One, the wise Counselor, the everlasting Source of all things, the Bringer of peace, God Himself—every term describes the Baby in the manger.

Most primaries are familiar with the Baby-in-the-manger narrative. This week we get to tell "the rest of the story"—who that Baby really was. We shall be declaring the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His light (1 Pet. 2:9). And since we may safely assume that most in the class will never have fully heard "the rest of the story," this should be an especially happy lesson to teach.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach what God Himself said about His coming promised One.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God promised long ago to send a special Servant who would do a good and special work for Him.
2. God's Servant would be special in five different ways.
3. The Lord's promised One is Jesus, our Saviour and Friend.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a picture of Isaiah.

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of a baby (not Jesus), a crown, and George Washington. Make signs reading "Servant," "Wonderful," "Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace," and "Jesus."

For Helping to Remember, each child will need crayons, a sheet of red construction paper, and a sprinkling of gummed stars.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each child (located at the end of this lesson).

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Isaiah. (Show Isaiah.) Remember him? He was one of the men who brought God's people different kinds of news God wanted them to know.

You will probably remember that some of what Isaiah had to tell them was not happy news. Because God's people had been foolish—they had made gold and silver idol gods to pray to instead of praying to Him—they would have big trouble. But not all the news Isaiah brought was bad.

There was a happy part. What was it? (Accept answers.) God gave His people a good promise. Can we still say that promise all together? (Lead the children in repeating Isaiah 9:6).

Those words are here in the Bible along with other things God said. (Show Isaiah in your Bible.) It is one of those "other things" that we are going to talk about today.

TELLING THE LESSON

God had already said that someday He would send a special someone to do a good and special work for Him. Later, in another place, Isaiah says that special person who was coming would be the Lord's Servant (52:13). (Show "Servant.")

A servant is someone who works for someone else. A good servant does just what the person he works for wants him to do. The Lord's Servant would be like that.

Then God told Isaiah some things about His Servant and His work. The Servant would come as a baby, and He would grow up to be a king. (Show baby and crown.) He will be a king who pleases God. That will make Him a good king, wise and strong. He will be such a good king that the whole world will be quiet and happy. When the Lord's Servant is king, people everywhere will know about God and what He wants.

The special Servant who was coming would make all those good things happen.

God told Isaiah what this special Servant He was going to send would be like. Then Isaiah told the people.

God said He would be wonderful. (Display and leave standing "Wonderful.") He would be more unique and more special than anyone else. What made the Lord's Servant wonderful was that He would be a man and God at the same time. God the Father would still be in heaven, while His Servant, God the Son, would be here on earth. We cannot really understand that, but God said that is the way it would be, and He knew.

How much does God know? He knows all things. So because the Lord's Servant was really God, He would be very wise. He would always be able to tell people what was best for them to do. People would say He was a good Counselor. (Display "Counselor" beside "Wonderful.") That means He would give good advice. That is why people should listen to Him and do what He says.

This One who was coming would be the mighty God. (Add "Mighty God" to the display.) "Mighty" means very strong. This Person would be able to do mighty things, strong things that ordinary people were not strong enough to do—things like walking on top of water or stopping a storm by talking to it or making dead people live again.

Sometimes He would be called the everlasting Father too. (Add "Everlasting Father.") This time "father" does not mean just the head of a family. This time "father" means more than that.

People say George Washington was the father of our country. (Show George Washington.) They mean that, in a way, it was George Washington who started America. If there had been no George Washington, there would be no America. He was America's first president. He was number one from the very beginning.

The One whom God was sending would not just be special. He would be Number One. He started everything. He ruled over all there was, and He always will. He is everlasting. (Point to "Everlasting Father.") He was not just Number One for a while; He would be Number One forever.

Isaiah said the promised One would be called one more thing. He would be called the Prince of peace. (Add "Prince of Peace.") Today a king's son is a prince. In Bible times kings were sometimes called princes too. This Prince would bring peace. When He is King, the whole world will know God and be at peace.

Isaiah knew a lot about the One who was coming. But you know something Isaiah did not know. You know whom the Lord was talking about when He said someone was coming who would be called Wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of peace. (Point to each card.) You know about the angel telling Joseph, "Mary will have a baby boy. You shall name Him Jesus because He shall save His people from their sins" (cf. Matt. 1:21). You know the special One was Jesus, and you know why He came. (Show "Jesus.")

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Christmas is a good time to say a special thank You to God for sending Jesus, the best Christmas present of all. Let us do that.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children fold their red papers to make a Christmas card. With the longer side toward them, have them draw Jesus in the manger on the front and print above the picture the question "Who Is Jesus?" Inside they should print: "Wonderful," "Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," "Prince of Peace." Let them decorate their cards with the stars and original designs.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Someone wonderful and wise is coming. He made everything and will live forever. As King He will make the world a quiet and holy place.

CONCLUSION

Children can begin to see Jesus was a servant. He came to forgive us of our sins and to make a way to be saved.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Christ's sacrifice solving the problem of sin. In Him we now have forgiveness and victory over death. We thank You in His precious name – "Jesus." Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

In next week's lesson, **"God Is Always Present."** God will always be with His people, no matter how dangerous the situation is. Study Isaiah 43:1-7; 11-12.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

Willie Ferrell

Jesus Is All Ministries

www.jesusisall.com

WORKS CITED

Summary and commentary derived from Standard Lesson Commentary Copyright© 2010 by permission of Standard Publishing.

Reprinted by permission of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press, P.O. Box 6059, Cleveland, Ohio 44101. (Web site: <http://www.uniongospelpress.com/>)

The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

WORD SEARCH

"God's Servant" (Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:1-8)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

CHILD	COUNSELOR	DAVID
FAITHFULNESS	GOD	JESSE
LORD	MEEK	MIGHTY
MOUTH	PEACE	PERFORM
POOR	PRINCE	RIGHTEOUSNESS
ROD	SON	SPIRIT
THRONE	WONDERFUL	

D S S L V I G X S A J L P H O
U O J S H M H J H V P U R T R
M R G M E M X P T U L F I Z T
T O E H R N R O O P J R N A E
W E U G V O L Y W Z M E C E K
K V X T F K U U R I I D E I P
E N O R H T M O F I E N K E P
T V W H Y W L I E H D O D C E
J E S S E E Y N G W T W O A T
S S E N S U O E T H G I R E S
P I H N C S Z Z D U T D A P L
D I U V E R Z E K L I Y I F O
W O R O E A B C S V I R F M R
C P E R F O R M A B I H H H D
Z U Z Z V P U D Z T Q Y C L C

20 words were placed into the puzzle.

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"God's Servant" (Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:1-8)

D + S + + + + + + + L P + +
+ O + S + + + + + + U R + +
M + G M E + + + + + F I + +
+ O E + + N R O O P + R N + +
+ E U + + + L + + + + E C + +
K + + T + + + U R + + D E + +
E N O R H T M O F + + N + E +
+ + + + + L I + H + O D C +
J E S S E E + N G + T W O A +
S S E N S U O E T H G I R E S
+ + + N + S + + D + T D A P L
+ + U + + + + + + L I Y I F O
+ O + + + + + + + V I R + + R
C P E R F O R M A + I H + + D
+ + + + + + + D + T + + C + +

(Over, Down, Direction)
CHILD (13, 15, NW)
COUNSELOR (1, 14, NE)
DAVID (8, 15, NE)
FAITHFULNESS (14, 12, NW)
GOD (3, 3, NW)
JESSE (1, 9, E)
LORD (15, 11, S)
MEEK (4, 3, SW)
MIGHTY (7, 7, SE)
MOUTH (1, 3, SE)
PEACE (14, 11, N)
PERFORM (2, 14, E)
POOR (10, 4, W)
PRINCE (13, 1, S)
RIGHTEOUSNESS (13, 10, W)
ROD (13, 10, N)
SON (6, 11, NE)
SPIRIT (15, 10, SW)
THRONE (6, 7, W)
WONDERFUL (12, 9, N)