

The Thread

Discovering The Thread of the Gospel Through The Big-Picture Story of the Bible

Part 2: A People Rise. A People Fall. Lesson 26: Messianic Prophecy From Isaiah



Session Snapshot

Narrative Passage: Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53:1-6

Gospel Focus: 1 Peter 2:21-25

Student Takeaways:

- Students will understand that the Messiah, God's perfect rescue plan for His people, was predicted centuries before Jesus came to earth.
- Students will understand that Jesus was the Messiah, the predicted, once-and-for-all redeemer of all who will believe in Him.
- Students will be challenged by the fact that Jesus paid the price so that they could "live to righteousness," and what this looks like in their lives.



Overview

As you progress through the big-picture story of the Bible, this is your last lesson in the Old Testament. And it serves as a bridge, of sorts, from the story of the Old Testament to the story of the New Testament. As you've learned this year, all of Scripture points toward Christ and His coming. But the Old Testament prophecies were so much more direct in doing this. There are hundreds and hundreds of prophecies that predicted Jesus' coming. You'll use this lesson in Isaiah as a representative example of the way God predicted the coming of the Messiah. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke through Isaiah to give God's people hope. The same message gives us hope today, as well.



Teacher Prep Video

Each *Thread* lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your *Thread* lesson 26 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 26, and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.



Bible Background

The Bible Background is designed to help you provide the basic context for the passages you'll be studying.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every ym360 Bible study lesson we encourage teachers to help students know who wrote a particular book, when it was written, and why it was written.
- **Why teach context?** Grasping the big-picture view of God's story of redemption is difficult for teenagers without understanding the context of the books and passages they're studying.

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah, son of Amoz wrote the book of Isaiah.

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Time frame: The events of Isaiah occurred between 740 and 681 B.C., though some parts of the book would have been constructed at a later date.

Purpose: The purpose of this book was to call the nation of Judah back to God, to warn of coming judgment, and to tell of God's ultimate salvation through the Messiah.

1 Peter

Author: 1 Peter was written by Peter, one of Jesus' most trusted disciples and one of the key leaders of the growing movement of Christ-followers.

Time frame: 1 Peter was likely written between 54-68 AD.

Purpose: 1 Peter was written to a people under persecution, likely under the reign of Nero. Peter calls the Church to persevere under trials because eternal life awaits them. He encourages them that God's promises to His people will endure and should be the basis of their hope.



Lesson Plan

The Lesson Plan contains four elements:

- An introductory activity called Getting Started designed to prepare teenagers to engage with God and the truth of His Word.
- A section entitled The Story featuring a narrative from Scripture that helps teenagers know God better through learning the story of the Bible.
- A special emphasis entitled The Thread where teenagers discover the Gospel thread coursing throughout the story of the Bible.
- An application-focused segment called Wrapping Up helping teenagers ask the question, "How am I impacted by what I learned today"?

Getting Started

- **Goal:** To help students understand that Jesus coming as Messiah was not just a "whim" from God, but planned for centuries.
- **Set-Up:** You are going to need to make copies of the lyrics to the Christmas Carol, "Oh Holy Night." Make sure you find a copy with all of the verses, as not every rendition has those. You may decide in addition to find your favorite version and play it for students, but this is not necessary.

FIRST, ask something like:

- **It might not be Christmas right now, but we are going to take a few moments and talk about the songs we sing at Christmas time. It might take a moment because we typically only think about these songs once a year, but I would love to know what is your favorite Christmas carol that is about Jesus? (So we aren't looking for Rudolph or Jingle Bells.)**
- **Why is it your favorite?**

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THEN, ask students if they can imagine how those songs would be different if we were still waiting for the Messiah to arrive. Explain that the birth of Jesus was talked about hundreds of years before He ever came to earth. People were hoping that He would come. And then He did! And it was awesome. Explain that this sentiment was captured in the Christmas song, "Oh Holy Night." Distribute the lyrics and take a few minutes to look at the words. Ask students what stands out from the lyrics of this song.

NEXT, explain that you're going to look at these lyrics through a different set of eyes. Say something like:

- **We've all had someone make us a promise. Some promises take longer to keep than others. It's one thing if a parent promises to take you for fast food for dinner, and entirely another if they want to take you on an expensive vacation. The people of Israel had people who were born and died waiting for the Messiah to come. Put yourself in the shoes of one of the people of Israel who had been told a Messiah was coming. Maybe they had heard it from their parents, and their grandparents, and now were telling their children that He is coming . . . Just wait! What would it be like if He never came?**

THEN, work together to look at the lyrics of "Oh Holy Night" as if Jesus hadn't come yet, but you were waiting for Him. How would the song be sung if you were still waiting for Jesus? What would be different if He still had not been born? Have fun with this and let it go as long as it's productive.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **As we continue our look at the big-picture story of the Bible, this is our last week to study the Old Testament. As I mentioned, prophecies and predictions had been made for literally hundreds of years waiting for a Messiah to arrive. God did a very cool thing and gave His people messages about what this Messiah would look like. You remember we talked about the prophets a few weeks ago. Isaiah was one of those, and his words about the coming Messiah are among the most well known. Now that we have looked at what it might have felt like to be waiting for Christ to come, let's look at some of the predictions that were made.**

Transition to The Story.

The Story

- **Goal:** Students will understand that the Messiah, God's perfect rescue plan for His people, was predicted centuries before Jesus came to earth.
- **Setup:** Students will need a Bible or a Bible app. You may find a dry-erase board is helpful to jot down some notes, but it's not essential.

FIRST remind students of who the prophets were and why they were special. While there were a lot of prophecies about the Messiah, we will be focusing on one this week. In these two passages we will look at both the hope of who was to come, and also the reality of what it would take to atone for our sin and redeem our relationship with God.

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Connecting The Dots

As you teach The Thread, there will naturally be some gaps in the story. This is an optional way for you to fill in some of the gaps between the last lesson you taught and this one. Use it as a way to review and/or to connect the dots to the events surrounding the passage.

- **Last week you looked at Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Isaiah was prophesying well before the events of Nehemiah. Remind students that this lesson serves as a bridge between how you will study the Old Testament and the New Testament.**
- **You may want to give a refresher to students about who the prophets were and why they were special. Isaiah was not the last prophet, but was perhaps Israel's most significant one.**
- **There were hundreds of predictions about the coming Messiah. Some of them were more than 700 years before Jesus ever came to earth.**

THEN, start by having students turn to Isaiah 9:6-7. While they're finding it, provide some of the basic background for the book using the Bible Background. Then, read or have a student read this passage. Say something like:

- **What are your first thoughts in reading these two verses?**
 - o Answers will vary. Help students see that Isaiah was a prophet who had many things to say about who the Savior would be, and how to find Him when He would arrive here on earth. This is a passage of hope. Again, let's remember we are reading this looking backward. We know who Jesus was, how He came, and what He did. We have the completed action to rely on. When Isaiah said these words, the people were looking forward to what would come.
- **If you were hearing for the first time that a baby was coming, and the "government would rest on His shoulders," what would you think?**
 - o Answers will vary. This is a hard passage to understand and often why the Israelites misunderstood what Christ's purpose was in coming. This was a passage of hope meant for us to see that the Messiah would carry the world on His shoulders. Yet, many interpreted this that the Israelites would no longer have to endure rule from an outside nation.
- **Take a look at all of the words used to describe the coming Messiah. What do they make you think?**
 - o Answers will vary. You may want to make a list of all the descriptions used. They are in both verses, not just the obvious list in verse 6. Have students take a few moments and discuss how all of these words still describe Jesus today.

NEXT, read or have a student read Isaiah 53:1-6. Then, ask something like:

- **Looking at verse 2, what does it say Jesus will "look like?"**
 - o Answer: We know that He will always belong to the Lord, and that actually nothing out of the ordinary in His looks will draw us to Him. This is opposite of often how Jesus is portrayed in movies with blown dried hair and chiseled features. Help students understand that Jesus was fully God, but fully human. In His appearance, he really was just one of us. It was WHO He was that would draw people to Him, not His appearance.
- **Focus on verses 3-6. What are these verses describing?**
 - o Answer: This well known passage is describing the crucifixion that Jesus would take on for our sin. Focus on words like "crushed" and "pierced."
- **Why does it say God would do this?**

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- o Answer: This passage discusses our weakness, rebellion, and ultimately sin. The people would think it is His own fault this is happening, but instead it would be because of us and our sin.
- **Again remember this passage was written for people who were hearing it for the first time. How would you feel if you heard this?**
 - o Answers will vary. People might be confused. It felt like a huge contrast to the passage in Isaiah 9. Why would someone whom people despise choose to carry all of our sin and be beaten for our sake? What could this really mean?
- **Think about both of the passages you just read. How are these both a picture of hope?**
 - o Answers will vary. Point out both show us the character of a loving God. Jesus would leave His home at the right hand of God for our sake. His greatest desire was to return people back into right relationship with Himself. These passages show a wonderful King who would do anything, even becoming an atoning sacrifice, to draw us back to Him.

Transition to the Thread by saying something like:

- **Can you imagine hearing about this coming Messiah? It all sounds so overwhelming. These passages show the depth that God cares for us. He planned to send His son and told us what He was coming to do.**

If students don't have any questions, transition into The Thread and see where you can trace the connection of the Gospel to the big-picture narrative of Scripture.

The Thread

FIRST, instruct students to turn to 1 Peter 2. If you choose, while they are finding the book, provide them with some brief context for book by referencing the Bible Background. When you've finished, read or have a student read 1 Peter 2:21-25, then lead students in a discussion.

Begin by saying something like:

- **In this passage, we see Peter discussing the way the Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled. You may remember that Peter was one of the 12 core disciples who walked and talked with Jesus in His time on earth. At this point of Peter writing this, he had not only heard the words, and known Jesus personally, but he had witnessed Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Peter is calling people to come into a relationship with Jesus. This is no longer a call for people to be on watch for the Messiah. This is a call for people to understand He has come! In this passage Peter is telling us to be like Christ.**

THEN, ask:

- **We just finished discussing Isaiah 53. This passage in Peter sounds very similar how?**
 - o Answer: Peter is talking about what HAS happened not about what WILL happen. Isaiah says the Messiah won't retaliate when insulted. Peter is saying he DIDN'T.
- **Look at verse 24. Tell me what it is saying to you about who Jesus is, what He did, and what happened as a result of His death and resurrection?**

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o Answers will vary. We often talk about how our sin was carried on the cross. We talk about what happened and how we were saved FROM sin. However, it isn't just that we were saved FROM, it's what we were saved TO. Jesus saved us to a life free from sin so we could be close to Him, and know how to live with Him once again.

- **Isaiah said that we are like sheep that have strayed. What does Peter say we are?**

o Answer: Peter said we were once sheep who wandered. But now we've returned to our shepherd.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **When we look at the hope in this passage from Peter, we can see just exactly what God had promised us in the coming of Christ. Notice this passage calls us to live like Christ did. It is asking us to embrace who He is, and all that means in our lives. We no longer have to walk around lost and wondering if we can be enough. Now we know that Christ came to not merely save us away from all the bad we do, but to be loved by a Savior that would do anything for us.**

If your students don't have any more questions, transition into the Wrapping Up section.

Wrapping Up

- **Goal:** To take time to reflect on who we are saved to, not just what we are saved from.
- **Set-Up:** Pen and paper for each student.

FIRST say something like:

- **You've probably had someone tell you that Christ saves you from your sin. You may have heard that there is nothing you could do that would make Jesus not love you. This is a true and important statement. Yet it's not the whole story. Sometimes we think that most of our sin isn't awful, so we can just make up for it in being a better person. Instead, we need to focus in on what we are saved TO, and what that means in everything we do and every way we live. Let's take a few moments and think about this.**

THEN, instruct them to take a sheet of paper and, if they are in a saving relationship with Jesus, write some of the things they have been saved from. Encourage them to think about those last passages they just focused on, especially being like unfaithful sheep wandering on our own. Give students a few moments to do this.

NEXT, ask students to look at their list. Brainstorm together some things they know they are saved TO Christ and what that means. You may want to focus on the characteristics of Jesus, what freedom in Christ truly is, and how it's not about stopping at our "sin" being taken away.

THEN, tell students to take a few minutes and be introspective. You have spent time talking in general about what we are saved to. Now have them reflect on what their relationship with Christ is like because of His follow through on His promise. Ask students something like:

- **How does knowing God kept a promise that he made for over 700 years change the way we look at our relationship with Jesus?**

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FINALLY, finish with something like:

- **The whole plan for a Messiah and salvation was so we could be rid of our sin in order to be close to Him once again. Yet, even to this day we get distracted and wander off away from Him. Sometimes we focus so much on the fact that our “sin has been taken care of,” that we can forget that it’s so we can be free and at peace at the Lord’s side. My challenge to you this week is to continue to seek God and ponder who He is. Move your focus from what you have been saved from and focus instead on what you have been saved TO.**
- **If you’ve purchased the *Tracing The Thread* devotional journal, remind students that they’ll be working through Week 26 this week. Encourage them to keep up with the daily devotions, and to give memo-rizing this week’s verse their best shot.**
- **If you’ll be utilizing the digital devotions included in the *Thread* curriculum, remind students how you’ll be making them available, i.e., Instagram, Facebook, etc.**
- **Use the Social Media guide to stay in touch with students via text or Twitter, and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions.**

We Want To Hear From You . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn’t work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.