


the  
Jesus   
Storybook  
Bible  
Curriculum

# Operation “No More Tears!”

The Rescuer will come: prophecies from Isaiah 9, 11, 40, 50, 53, 55, 60

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*  
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

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## Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

- ☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- ☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we read the story of Naaman. We discovered that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. God saves us and it is a free gift. We also memorized a verse about why that is true.”

☉ Ask them to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “Isaiah 53:6 — ‘The LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.’” Remind them that the “him” in the verse is Jesus.

☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, say: “Today’s story comes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah wrote the words we just recited and also wrote a lot of other verses about the future.”

## Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

**Aim:** To expend energy and introduce the idea of knowing the future.

**Materials:** None.

1. Ask: “Does anyone here know the future? Raise your hand if you know what the world will be like 50 years from now. Raise your hand if you know something that is going to happen 700 years from now. Interesting, no one here knows the future 700 years from now.”
2. Ask: “What about your own future? Where do you think you will live when you grow up? Will you live here or maybe the North Pole? I’m going to choose one of you to jump up and announce the place. If anyone else thinks they will live in the same place, jump up too. Then everyone sit down and it is the turn of the next person in the circle. Everybody gets a turn to announce where they think they will live, even if someone else said it before you. Ready?”
3. Choose a child and let the activity begin.
4. When the last child has had a turn, say: “You all think you will be living in some interesting places in the future. I have another question for you about the future. What do you think you will be when you grow up? Do you think you will be a fire fighter or a nurse or a painter or a pilot or a scientist? What job will you do?”

5. Choose a child and repeat the activity.

6. At the end of the activity, say: “You thought of some very interesting jobs. Isaiah, who we are going to read about, also had an interesting job. Isaiah’s job was to listen to God and tell the people what God said. Some of the things God told Isaiah were about the future. We thought of some stuff about the future, but we can’t know if it will come true. We don’t know the future. But Isaiah did know the future because God told him. Isaiah lived about 700 years before Jesus, but he knew a lot about Jesus. Let’s find out what Isaiah knew about the future.”

**For larger groups:** You may want to divide up the circle into smaller circles, each with a teacher so that this activity does not take too long.

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 144–151 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD2 track 4.

### Notes for Teachers on the Text

Isaiah writes in chapter 9, verse 6: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Think about the four terms used here – each one is amazing.

☉ Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. He is the true source of wisdom.

☉ He is Mighty God. The word “mighty” is the Hebrew word *gibor*, and it means hero, champion; the one who faces overwhelming odds, is willing to give his life, and saves the people.

☉ Everlasting Father means that Jesus brings you into an intimate family relationship with him – this champion is your “dad.”

☉ Lastly, he is Prince of Peace, Prince of Shalom. *Shalom* is the Hebrew word which means absolute spiritual and physical flourishing. Jesus does not just give you a wonderful relationship with him and deal with your problems on the inside. He is here to eventually create a new heaven and a new earth. He is here to bring peace and justice, and to ultimately rid the world of poverty, injustice, violence, war, disease, and death.

However, when we get to Isaiah chapter 53, this Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, who is supposed to end violence, is instead the victim of violence: “Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer” (53:10); “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (53:5).

Isaiah makes explicit the substitutionary character of Jesus’ death. We are told that Jesus was not a sinner who needed to pay for his own sins. He was “numbered with the transgressors” (53:12) – he was not himself a transgressor, but he was treated legally as if he were a sinner. He stood in our place: “The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (53:6).

Isaiah also spells out the effects of his death. It removes sin (53:10), brings peace (53:5), and brings justification (53:11).

At first, Isaiah 60 seems to be predicting a future era in which Jerusalem and Judah have a great deal of economic and political power and prosperity (“the riches of the nations”). If you look carefully, you will notice it is talking about something that not only has never happened but could never happen in human history as we know it. The viewpoint of this prophecy is looking out at the ocean where something white appears (Isaiah 60:8–10). It is a massive fleet of ships. Literally, all the wealth of all the nations of the world is streaming into Jerusalem for the honor and glory of God.

Then, verse 18 and following talk about a society where there is no violence, no war, no sorrow or sadness. There will no longer be a need for the sun or the moon (Isaiah 60:19). We are looking at the future, at the new heaven and new earth.

We are told in Isaiah 55:12 – amazingly – that when God comes back to renew the world, “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.” This is the destiny of God’s people.

## Understanding the Story

15 min. 

**Aim:** To learn about Isaiah's prophecies and what they mean.

**Materials:** 11 index cards—each card has the question number and one question written/printed on it (see table); a microphone (this can be made out of paper, though if you can get a real microphone children enjoy using it); a name tag with Isaiah written on it; crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

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1. At the end of the story, say: "Raise your hand if you think fairy tales are true. Raise your hand if you think Isaiah's letter is a fairy tale. Raise your hand if you think Isaiah's letter is true. Thank you, hands down. Poor Isaiah, he knew the letter was true because it had come from God, but no one believed him. Let's interview Isaiah. I have some questions here for Isaiah. Who would like to ask Isaiah a question?"
2. Hand the children the index cards in order around the circle. Explain that the person with the index card should stand, hold the microphone, and ask Isaiah the question on the card. (NOTE: If the children struggle to read the questions, one of the other teachers can ask the questions talk-show host style while holding the microphone but still involving the children as much as possible. Alternatively, you could print the questions on large cards and one of the other teachers can hold them up one by one so everyone can see them and everyone can ask the questions by reading them aloud together.)
3. Put on the name tag that says Isaiah (or ask another teacher to do so). Put the chair in the circle so everyone can see you, and sit down holding the microphone. Announce that you are Isaiah; e.g., "Hello, my name is Isaiah, the prophet Isaiah. Everyone always gets my name wrong. I tell them and tell them and no one listens! That happens a lot. Anyway, thank you for having me here today. I think you have some questions for me. Who has the first question?"
4. Hand the child with index card number 1 the microphone and get them to ask the first question. Take the microphone back to answer the question and then hand it to the child with index card number 2, and so on.
5. Questions for the index cards and answers for Isaiah:

NO.	QUESTION FOR INDEX CARD	ISAIAH'S ANSWER
1	What do you do?	Thank you for asking; I am a prophet.
2	What does a prophet do?	The biggest part of my job is to listen to God and tell the people what God said.
3	Do you like being a prophet?	It's hard work and can be very sad when people don't believe me. That happens a lot.
4	Why don't people believe you?	Sometimes people don't want to hear what God has to say. Also because some of the things are about the future, people find it hard to believe them.
5	Can you tell the future?	No. No. No. But God knows the future and sometimes he tells it to me so I can tell it to the people.
6	What did God tell you about the future?	I KNEW you were going to ask me that! No, just kidding. One of the really exciting things God told me about was his rescue plan, about how he will rescue his people and fix everything that is broken in the world.
7	Why do we need a rescue plan?	People are always running away from God. People sin all the time. But God's rescue plan will bring his people back to him and make everything sad come untrue.
8	What does it mean for everything sad to come untrue?	It means there will be no more sadness. There will be no more pain or tears or fear or death. Everything will be perfect again, like it was in the beginning when God created the world.
9	How will that happen?	The rescue plan is all about someone called a Rescuer and a King and a Servant and a Light and a Lamb and a Shepherd and so many other names. This Rescuer King Servant Light Lamb Shepherd (that was hard to say!) will come to earth and do many amazing things, but then he will suffer and die.
10	Why will he die?	He will die instead of God's people. He will take the punishment for their sin by dying in their place. But he won't stay dead; God will make him alive again. That is how the Rescuer King Servant Light Lamb Shepherd will rescue his people.
11	Who is this Rescuer King Servant Light Lamb Shepherd?	THAT is a great question. But it is a question I think you should answer. Let me read to you from my letter, but this time listen carefully for all the names of this person. Circle the names on your paper when I read them. Does everyone have their paper?

6. Collect back the index cards and give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Isaiah should repeat the instructions and then read appropriate parts of the letter aloud:

- ☉ I am sending you a SHEPHERD to carry you home to me.
- ☉ Into the darkness, a bright LIGHT will shine.
- ☉ A little baby will be born, a ROYAL SON.
- ☉ His name will be EMMANUEL which means “God has come to live with us.”
- ☉ He is one of King David’s children’s children; he will be a KING.
- ☉ He will be a SERVANT and ...
- ☉ He will be a HERO, but people will hate him and they won’t listen to him.
- ☉ He will be like a LAMB; he will suffer and die. But he won’t stay dead.
- ☉ The RESCUER will come and everything sad will come untrue.

7. Isaiah should then say: “You should have circled nine names. Did anyone circle all nine names? Raise your hand. Very good, hands down. There are a few more names on your paper that I forgot to read. Who can tell me what they are? Yes, that is one of my favorite parts that God told me to write. He will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ Those are all the names I knew him by, but you know him by one more name, right? What is it?”

8. Get the children to say “Jesus.” Then say as you exit the circle: “Yes, I never knew him by that name. You are very lucky that you do. It was lovely to talk to you all. Thank you and good-bye.”

9. Get everyone to say thank-you and good-bye to Isaiah.

**For larger groups:** You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher, a microphone, and a set of index cards. This will mean that everyone gets a chance to ask a question and the teacher can check understanding as they play Isaiah.

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## Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: "Isaiah lived about 700 years before Jesus, but in his book we read about Jesus all the time. Isaiah knew the future because God told it to him. God wanted his people to know about his rescue plan and his Rescuer. God told Isaiah his plan and Isaiah told it to the people."

Say: "Isaiah told the people that a Rescuer King Servant Light Lamb Shepherd who is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace will come to earth and do many great amazing things, but then he will suffer and die. But he won't stay dead; God will make him alive again, and he will rescue his people and one day make the world perfect again. That was what Isaiah knew about the future. That was what Isaiah knew about Jesus."

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## Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: "What did we discover about Jesus from today's story?"

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

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## Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, praising God for such an amazing rescue plan. Thank God that Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Ask God to help you and the children reflect on it, treasure it, and remember it.

Ask the children to pick one of the names for Jesus they discovered today from Isaiah. Ask a few of them to pray, thanking God that Jesus is that name.

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## A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

2 min. 

☉ Introduce the verse: "Remember the verse we recited at the start. It is something that Isaiah knew about the future Jesus. He knew that God would send Jesus to take away our sin."

☉ Announce the verse: "Remember the verse; it is Isaiah 53:6 — 'The LORD has laid on him the sin of us all.'"

☉ Read the verse out loud together as a group.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents and to memorize the verse for next time.



### Jesus in the Story

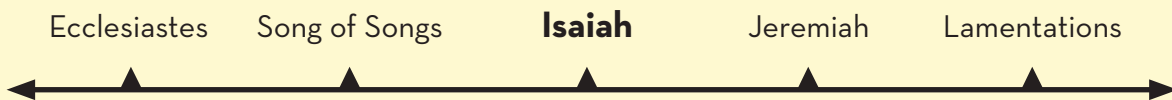


What did you discover about Jesus from this story?

Jesus

### A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

The LORD has laid on him the sin of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned that God told Isaiah about a future Rescuer King who will come to earth and do many amazing things, but then he will suffer and die. But God will make him alive again, and he will rescue his people and one day make the world perfect again.

Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Isaiah, using the diagram above.