

Adventures with GOD!

THE PROPHETS TOLD OF JESUS' COMING (C.1.WINTER.1)

Biblical Reference	Acts 8:26-39
Key Verse	Isaiah 53:7-8
Key Concept	The prophets talked about Jesus coming as Messiah hundreds of years before he came.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Name at least three of the prophets that talked about Jesus' coming 2. Reflect on God's prophecy about Jesus. 3. Explain what a prophet is and what a prophecy consists of

Life Application

Can you guess what will happen tomorrow? Next week? Next year? In ten years? As humans it is impossible for us to predict the future. But for God anything is possible! Through prophets, God told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The children can learn to recognize and appreciate the different prophecies that were written thousands of years ago and that have been fulfilled one by one, like the birth of Jesus.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Worksheets, Bibles, pencils	15 minutes
Craft	Illustrations, , scissors, crayons, glue, poster board	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, scroll (rolled up paper), map of Holy Land, markers	20 minutes
Hidden picture	Pieces and tape	5 minutes
Craft - Scroll	Individual sheets of paper, markers, ribbon	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Activity: Ask the children to open their Bibles to find the names of the prophets. Some talked about the coming of a Messiah and others didn't. Explain that starting with the book of Isaiah through the book of Malachi, they will find the names of the prophets. Read them together. Some are hard to pronounce and you might need to say them a couple of times. Prophecies are messages from God that sometimes speak of the present, sometimes the future and sometimes both. These messages are delivered to us through God's prophets. Give them a copy of the worksheet entitled "Scrambled Prophets" and have them work in teams to learn the names of prophets from the Bible. This will serve as an introduction to what they will learn in the lesson. Each time they unscramble a name – have them shout: "Prophets bring messages from God!"

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Craft: Prior to the class, make an example of an advent calendar to show the students what they will be making. The example is found in the following pages. It's important to have the calendar ready at the beginning of the trimester so they can use it during advent.

Bible Story: Can a human being guess what things will happen tomorrow? Next year or in 10 years? (We might be able to predict some things that are likely to occur, but it's difficult to say definitively what will happen). Even with the technology that we have today, technology that consists in satellites that help us predict natural disasters, such as earth quakes, floods, storms, tornados, etc, we still cannot predict things precisely or exactly like they will happen.

Hundreds of years ago God spoke through people he had chosen to be prophets. These people had a very big responsibility. They communicated God's messages to God's chosen people. Some of the messages had to do with God's love for us, the Promised Land, the plagues and disasters that could happen as a result of the people's disobedience. But prophets also gave messages that talked about the arrival of a Savior that would come to reconcile people with God. Who was the Savior they prophesied about? Jesus, God's son.

Now we're going to look at something amazing that happened years after the books of the prophets were written. Let's look at Acts 8:26-39. (It's very important that the children learn to use their Bibles. If they already know how, great; if not, help them find the numbers that indicate the chapter and verses, etc. We can't automatically assume that they will know how to find the passages, we need to be ready to guide them as they learn to read this important book.)

Read the passage and let them take turns reading the verses. As we study the passage we will find two people: Philip and a man from Ethiopia. Look at the map in the New Testament to see where the region of Jerusalem and Gaza are located. Locate the place where the story takes place and the place where the Ethiopian man came from.

The Holy Spirit guided Philip in a very special way to the place where he saw that this man was reading the book of Isaiah. (If possible make ahead of time a sample of what a scroll might have looked like. Philip walked up to where the man was reading a scroll of the book of Isaiah and asked if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian said he didn't but that he would like to. It was the ideal moment for Philip to sit with the man and explain from the book of the prophet Isaiah that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. The Ethiopian was amazed that a prophecy written hundreds of years earlier was fulfilled by Jesus. The Ethiopian hearing of Jesus love and sacrifice for him and assured by the presence of the Holy Spirit was convinced and believed in

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the message that Philip shared with him. As an expression of his love and faith in Jesus, he was baptized. Next, have students act out the story or each make one picture of a cartoon strip that depicts the story.

Let's see what the Ethiopian was reading in Isaiah 53:7-8. What does the prophet tell us? (let the students respond to the question with their observations.) This prophecy tells us that someone was going to come and die and take away our sin. Philip explained that Jesus fulfilled everything that Isaiah had written about in this passage. Ask: How do you feel about Jesus knowing he loves you so much he would suffer and die for you?

In this trimester we will be looking at the different prophecies that are related to Jesus' coming, but also prophecies that talk about his death, his kingdom, his message, etc. The interesting thing is that the people were waiting for someone to come and take power and be a strong king to govern Israel. But, God had in mind a different type of Messiah. He sent Jesus, so that through his love, teachings, healing, humbleness and wisdom, people would come to know the true kingdom of God. That is why so many people did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

We can also use these prophecies to talk with people we know about Jesus as the Messiah, who fulfilled what the prophets had written about.

Hidden picture: In the introduction to the trimester you will find the "Hidden Picture" craft that you will use each week during the trimester. Each week the children can take off two of the verses that cover the hidden picture (see illustration in the introduction): the verse that reveals the prophecy and the verse that reveals the fulfillment of the prophecy. Each week they will remove two of the squares that cover the hidden picture. At the end of the trimester they will be able to see the complete picture (which shows different aspects of Jesus' life from his birth to his ascension).

Craft: Give each student a piece of paper. Have them write Isaiah 53:7-8 on the paper using markers or pens. Next have them roll the paper into a Scroll. Use ribbon to tie the scroll shut. Encourage students to read their scrolls each morning or night as a reminder of God's love for them.

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Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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WORK SHEET

Scrambled prophets

Below you will find the names of the prophets all scrambled up. Unscramble the names. The names of the prophets who talked about the coming Messiah have an * by them.

LAACMHI

IIASH*

LEJO

HSOAE*

MANHU

IGGAH

HMIAEJRE*

SMAO

ONJAH

KAUKAKBH

CHEAIAZRH

HACIM*

EIZEEKL

HBDOAIA

LIDANE*

ZPHNHEAIA

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WORK SHEET

Answers: Scrambled Prophets

L A A C M H I	MALACHI
I I A S H *	ISAIAH
L E J O	JOEL
H S O A E *	HOSEA
M A N H U	NAHUM
I G G A A H	HAGGAI
H M I A E J R E *	JEREMIAH
S M A O	AMOS
O N J A H	JONAH
K A U K A K B H	HABAKKUK
C H E A I A Z R H	ZECHARIAH
H A C I M *	MICAH
E I Z E E K L	EZEKIEL
H B D O A I A	OBADIAH
L I D A N E *	DANIEL
Z P H N H E A I A	ZEPHANIAH

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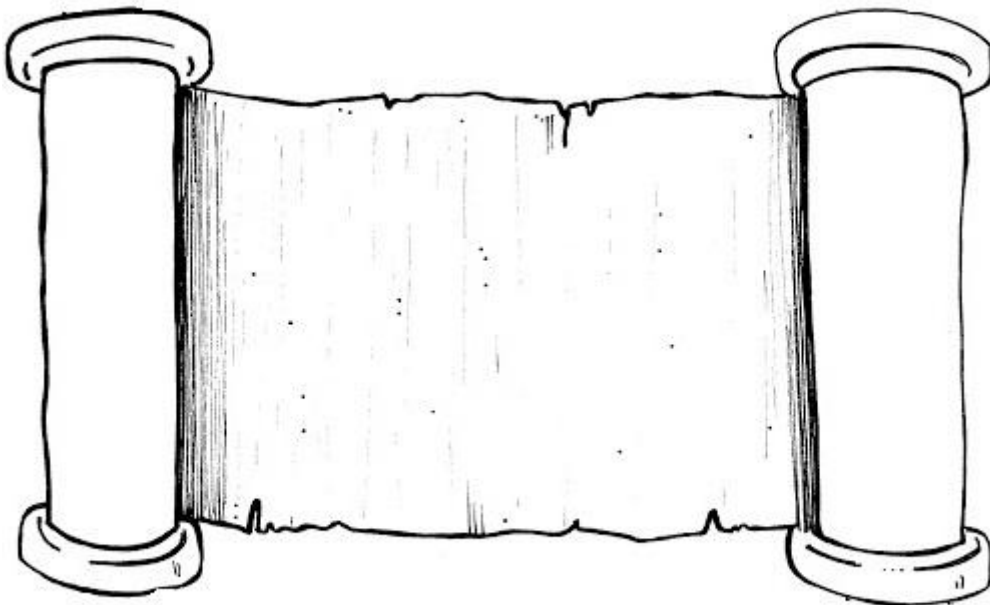
CRAFT

Scroll

Materials: drawings, scissors, crayons, glue, 1 sheet of poster board (84 x 63 cm)

Give each student a piece of paper. Have them write Isaiah 53:7-8 on the paper using markers or pens. Next have them roll the paper into a Scroll. Use ribbon to tie the scroll shut.

Encourage students to read their scrolls each morning or night as a reminder of God's love for them.



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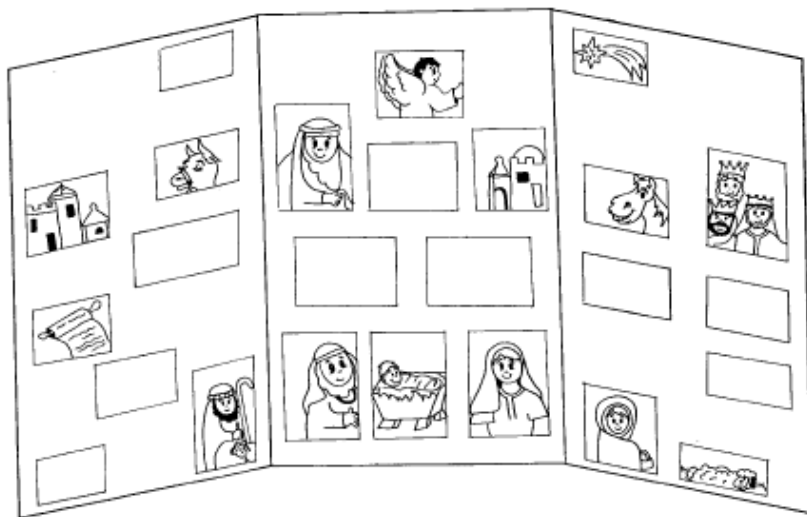
CRAFT

Advent Calendar

Materials: drawings, scissors, crayons, glue, 1 sheet of poster board (84 x 63 cm)

Instructions:

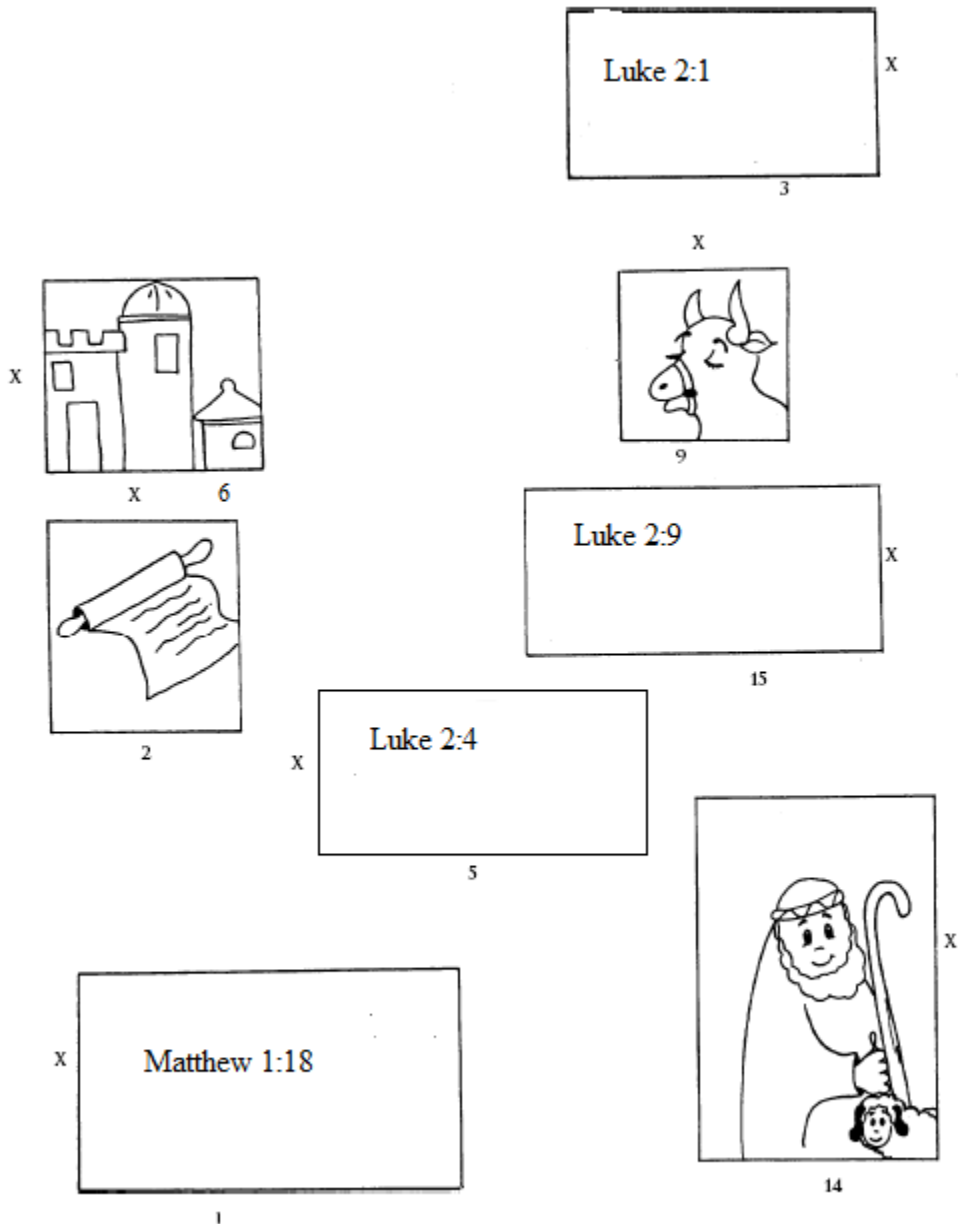
1. Make sure you have a copy of the drawings and verses (one for each).
2. Let them color the drawings.
3. They should place all three sheets of drawings and verses down on the large sheet of poster board and trace the outlines of the boxes onto the poster board.
4. The boxes that are traced on the poster board will become “windows” so carefully they should cut out three sides of each window so that it can be opened on the corresponding day of the month. On each window write the number that corresponds with the day that the window should be opened (found on the bottom of each of the boxes with drawings and verses).
5. Glue the three sheets of drawings and verses to the poster board so that the drawings and verses line up with the windows that you made. You should be able to open the window and see the drawing/verse.
6. Start opening the windows on the 1st day of December.



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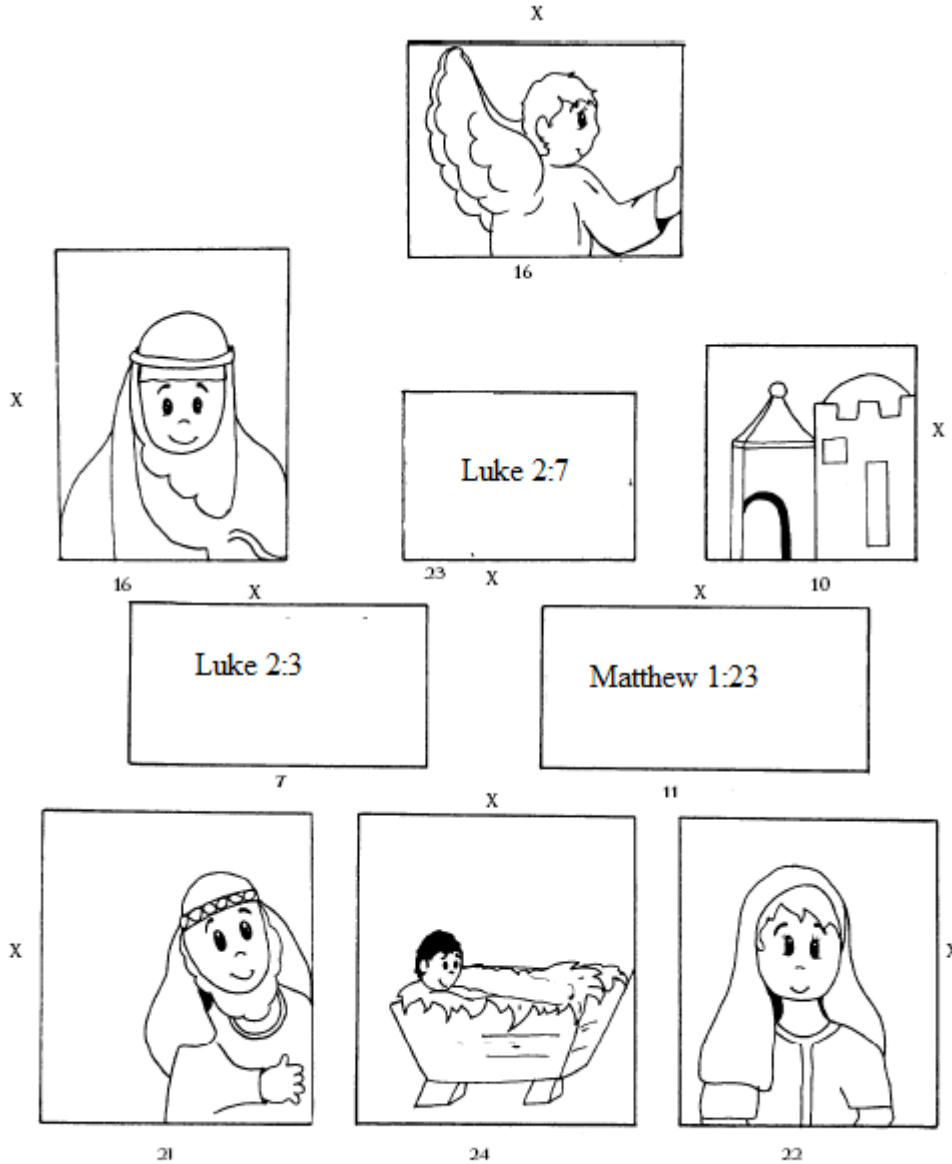
PATTERN

The * next to the square represents the side you should refrain from cutting, when cutting out the windows on the poster board.



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