

## Lesson #3-14

### *Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope*

Isaiah 61:1-11

3rd -6th

#### **Key Verse:**

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as the garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before the nations.

Isaiah 61:11

#### **The Point:**

God will bring justice and peace.

#### **Making Connections:**

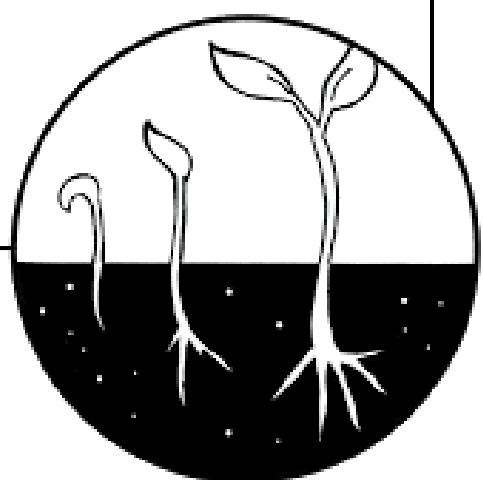
The Hope of the Messiah

#### **Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Justice and Peace

#### **Spiritual Practice:**

Prayer



# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### *Into the Story*

#### *Opposites and Reversals*

Find the opposites.

*10 min.*

† None

### *Bible Nuts & Bolts*

#### *Peace Pennant*

Make dove of peace pennants.

*15 min.*

† Activity Sheet #3-14.A

† Felt

† Quick-drying fabric glue or craft glue

† Markers

† Scissors

### *Learning the Story*

#### *Changes Coming*

Point out the changes in the Scripture passage.

*15 min.*

† Bibles

### *Living the Story*

#### *Praying for Justice and Peace*

Pray an action prayer.

*10 min.*

† None

### *Additional Activities*

#### *A Game of Reversals*

Play a game of opposites or reversals.

*15 min.*

† Bibles

† Activity Sheet #3-14.B

† Small bag or box

# Activities a la Carte

## *Additional Activities*

### ***JoyJam***

Make a joy jam rap.

***15 min.***

- † Activity Sheet #3-14.C
- † Pens or pencils

### ***“Awesome God” Worship Dance***

Create your own “Awesome God” liturgical dance.

***15 min.***

- † Internet-connected device with projection
- † Optional: audio recording of “Awesome God” by Rich Mullins

### ***Bible Book***

Optional ongoing activity.

***5 min.***

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

### ***Sending the Story***

***5 min.***

- † None

# Background for Teachers

## Making Connections

After living through nearly five decades in exile, the Israelites are free to leave Babylon. At last, they can return to Jerusalem and start over. Starting over brings its own set of challenges, both internal and external. Joel offered hope to the exiles struggling to set up a new life after captivity by focusing on repentance and the coming day of the Lord. Now Isaiah offers similar hope and more. Isaiah offers a hope that lasts through eternity: the hope of the Messiah.

## Story Summary:

### *Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope*

Isaiah prophesied the good news of deliverance. To the oppressed, broken-hearted, and captives, he announced the Lord's favor. Life as they knew it was going to change. Things were going to get better! God would release and provide for them. Their land would be built up and repaired. God would be faithful and bless God's people. Isaiah's message was that the Messiah—whom we know as Jesus—would deliver God's people from suffering and oppression.

## The Point

**God will bring justice and peace.** While people often try to keep their power and keep things the same, God is looking out for those at the margins and will turn human society on its head in order to care for all of God's people. The oppressors will be dumbfounded, the oppressed set free. The Messiah, who entered the world through lowly means, is the redeemer for everyone, both the oppressed and the oppressor. He will turn things around and make things new.

## Bible Nuts and Bolts:

### *Justice and Peace*

Justice is not the same as equality, as some have a greater need than others. It means that all people have what they need, and no one is left wanting. It is closely connected with the concept of shalom (peace), which is not just the absence of conflict, but when everyone is safe and has all that they need. It is the world as God intends it to be. Shalom, like justice, is when no one is hungry, scared, thirsty, sick, or suffering in any way.

## Spiritual Practice: Prayer

As we wait for the final fulfillment of God's promises, we can stand in the gap and pray for those on the margins of society. People who are often overlooked by society are not overlooked by God. As stewards of God's love, we can reach out through prayer and deed. Who are you aware of, who is not a close friend, that needs help of any kind? Pray for that person. What holds you back from reaching out if you normally do not do so? How will you address questions that the students might ask about why there are still people who are poor or sick if God makes things new and changes things for the better?

# Lesson Plan



## *Into the Story (10 minutes)*

### *Opposites and Reversals*

Find the opposites.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. Explain that you are playing a game of opposites. Ask the students to list some opposites that they know. [*Up, down; in, out; short, tall; etc.*]
2. Give them one word at a time from the following list and wait for them to give you the opposite: **sad** [*happy*], **weak** [*strong*], **poor** [*rich*], **broken** [*whole or fixed, repaired*], **captured** [*freed*], **sick** [*healthy*].
3. For each pair of opposites, ask them to explain the difference between the two and say why they would rather be one than the other. [*For example: I would rather be happy than sad because...*]
4. End this activity by saying: **God can take people who are sad, weak, poor, broken, captured, or sick and turn things around (make things better) for them. The sad can be happy; the weak can be strong; the broken can be repaired; the captured can be set free; the sick can be healthy.**

# Bible Nuts & Bolts (10 minutes)

## Peace Pennant

Make dove of peace pennants.

*You will need:*

- † Activity Sheet #3-14.A
- † Felt
- † Quick-drying fabric glue or craft glue
- † Markers
- † Scissors

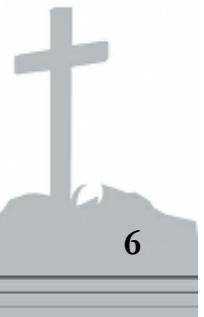
*Before class:*

1. If you have time, make a sample pennant to show the class.
2. Make copies of Activity Sheet #3-14.A.
3. To fit the dove, the base pennant triangle should be at least 8 1/2" x 12," though the exact size needed will vary by the dimensions of the triangle used.

*During class:*

1. **Imagine a world where there is no fighting, not even between brothers and sisters. Imagine a world where everyone has food and safety and where everyone's needs are met. This is a world of peace and justice. What are some other changes we would see in today's world if there were perfect peace and justice? [Answers will vary.]**
2. A pennant is a type of flag that is cut in the shape of a long triangle. We are going to make peace pennants to remind us to pray for God's peace and justice. The pennants can also remind us to do our best to live in peace and do what we can to help those in need.
3. Decide how big you want your pennant to be, and then cut a triangle shape from your piece of felt.
4. Cut out the paper dove. Trace it on a different color felt, then cut the dove shape out of that felt. Glue this to your pennant.
5. **The next time you are in conflict with another family member, wave your peace pennant and try to work things out.**

Note: consider using the color of felt for the pennant that your faith tradition uses to celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and explain the symbolism to your class.



## *Learning the Story (15 minutes)*

### *Changes Coming*

Point out the changes in the Scripture passage.

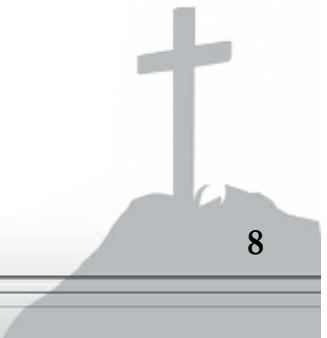
*You will need:*

† Bibles

*During class:*

1. During this lesson, work through the passage with a focus on pointing out the changes. Also, emphasize verses where praise and glory is given to God. For each of the Scripture passages (where the steps include reading) choose a volunteer. If you have a shy group or a group of young readers, you may choose to do the reading.
2. **As we read God's Word, we are going to keep track of changes that Isaiah proclaims God is going to make in the lives of the people. When you hear a change, stand. Remain standing until you hear another change. Then sit.**
3. Read Isaiah 61:1. (Stand: bring good news to the oppressed; sit: bind up the brokenhearted; stand: proclaim liberty to the captives; sit: release to the prisoners.) You may need to explain words like oppressed, brokenhearted, liberty, and captives, but start by asking if anyone can share what the words mean.
4. Continue reading Isaiah 61:2-3. (Stand: to comfort all who mourn; sit: to give them a garland instead of ashes; stand: the oil of gladness instead of mourning; sit: the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.) You may need to explain words like mourn, garland, mantle, and faint spirit, but start by asking if anyone can share what the words mean.
5. **Isaiah 61:3 says that God will do all of this so that God will be glorified. To glorify someone means to make them famous for doing or being something good. How does making all these changes bring glory to God? [People will see and be in awe of what God has done; people will praise God; people will know how powerful God is.]**
6. **If you were one of the people who was hearing a promise for this kind of change, but you had to wait to see the change take place, how would you keep on going from day to day while you waited? [They can hope in God and by looking forward to God delivering on the promises, they will endure the day to day life in the meantime.]**
7. Continue reading Isaiah 61:4. (Stand: build up the ancient ruins; sit: raise up the former devastations; stand: repair the ruined cities.)

8. **This is a good time for us to be standing out of respect for God, to honor God for the great love in all these wonderful changes. While standing, let us read Isaiah 61:10-11 together.** You may ask volunteers rather than reading in unison, depending on the reading ability of your students.
9. **How many times did you move from sitting to standing or from standing to sitting?** Give the students time to look in their Bibles to see if they can guess the number. *[Eleven.]*
10. **We heard eleven changes that Isaiah said that God would make. If you were one of the people who was hearing a promise for these changes, how might you respond when the changes took place? Show or tell us.** *[Answers will vary.]*
11. **God still changes lives today. Jesus came so that our lives could be better, now and forever. Ask God to make changes. Wait for God with hope, and remember to praise God while waiting and after the change has been made.**



# *Living the Story (10 minutes)*

## *Praying for Justice and Peace*

Pray an action prayer.

*You will need:*

† Nothing

*During class:*

1. Teach the following action prayer to the students and then pray it together:

**When we are weak,** (flop down as if reaching for toes, arms limp)

**You make us strong.** (stand tall and make muscle arms)

**When we are sad,** (wipe tears)

**You give us comfort.** (hug self)

**When we are lost,** (turn around in a circle as if confused)

**You lead the way.** (point forward)

**Give strength to those who feel weak.** (stand tall and make muscle arms)

**Give comfort to those who feel sad.** (hug self)

**Lead us all in your ways.** (point forward)

**Amen.**

## *Additional Activities*

### *Game of Reversals (15 minutes)*

Play a game of opposites or reversals

*You will need:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-14.B
- † Small bag or box

*Before class:*

1. Cut out the cards that are on Activity Sheet #3-14.B, and put them in a small bag or box.

*During class:*

1. This activity builds on the Into the Story activity.
2. Explain to the students that words that were in today's Scripture passage, and others that are similar, are on slips of paper in this bag (or box).
3. **A representative from each team will take turns reaching in the bag (or box), pulling out a slip of paper, and reading the word. The first team to have all team members standing and calling out the reversal or opposite wins a point. Hint: all of the opposites or reversals are words of hope and deliverance. The team with the most points (the most accurate reversals or opposites) wins.**
4. If no team has the answer, move on to the next slip of paper. When the papers are all used, go back and discuss what these words mean and what their opposite is.
5. When this is done, ask each group to put the slips of paper in the middle of the group where each student can touch them. Ask them to place their hands on the slips of paper while you pray.
6. **God, thank you that you are a God of reversals. You take what looks impossible to change and you fix things in ways no one else can. We pray for people in our community who are experiencing what is written on these papers. Change their lives. Fill them with joy. Thank you. In your name we pray. Amen.**

## *Joy Jam (15 minutes)*

Make a joy jam rap.

*You will need:*

- † Activity Sheet #3-14.C
- † Pens or pencils

*Before class:*

1. Print copies of Activity Sheet #3-14.C.

*During class:*

1. Begin by talking about Advent, and the colors that your faith tradition uses to celebrate this week. If your faith tradition focuses on Joy this week, emphasize that.
2. **Our reading today starts with the statement: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.”** The word “anointed” is connected with the word “messiah.” Has anyone heard that word before? Where? Here’s a hint: the word used in the New Testament (the second part of the Bible) for messiah is Christ. So, who is the Messiah, the anointed one? [Jesus.]
3. Yes, we believe that the Messiah is Jesus! And in Advent we are waiting to celebrate Jesus’ arrival at Christmas, right? Let’s celebrate the joy that comes from Jesus!
4. Divide the class into small groups and distribute copies of Activity Sheet #3-14.B. Explain that the words for a joy jam rap have been started for them, and it is their job to complete it and to then perform the rap for the other groups with words and mouth-made music sounds, not with dance. They can fill in the blanks with whatever they choose, based on the Scripture reading if they would like.
5. After the groups share their rap, tell them that watching them celebrate joy in Jesus gave you joy.

## *“Awesome God” Worship Dance (15 minutes)*

Create your own “Awesome God” liturgical dance.

*You will need:*

- † Internet-connected device with projection
- † Optional: audio recording of “Awesome God” by Rich Mullins

*Before class:*

1. Cue the music and video so it is ready to play.
2. This website hyperlink is provided for your convenience and is correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

*During class:*

1. Explain that after watching a video performance of worship dance to the song “Awesome God” by Rich Mullins, the students will create their own worship dance. Students can work with partners, in groups, or alone for this activity. Make that decision based on your class.
2. Play the sample video of [youth dancing to “Awesome God”](#) (Internet search phrase: “Awesome God” Worship Dance).
3. Play the music that they will use. Use an audio recording that you own or find one online using the search phrase: “Awesome God” Rich Mullins.
4. Explain that this dance is a form of worship, so as they create their dance, they should listen to (or sing) the words, thinking about how truly awesome God is.
5. **However you choose to dance, dance to glorify God.**
6. Allow students several minutes to create their dances, and show them to the large group.
7. When the students are done, give them time to share what they think is most awesome about God.
8. You may consider performing these in church some week as a part of the congregational worship.

## Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

*You will need:*

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

*Before class:*

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

*During class:*

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**  
*[Answers will vary.]*
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

## *Sending the Story (5 minutes)*

### *Prayer*

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

**God looks out for everyone: people who have lots of money and people who do not have enough money, people who are well-known and people you do not know, people who live in fancy houses and people who live in homeless shelters. No matter what, God loves people and is always with them.**

**What kind of changes did Isaiah say God was going to make?** *[Brokenhearted—healing; captive—liberty; those who are bound—prison opens; mourners—comfort.]* You may have to give some reminders by saying key words like “brokenhearted.”

Group the students with partners. Ask them to pray for the oppressed, brokenhearted, captive, mourners, prisoners, and faint of spirit. One student can name the people’s situation (brokenhearted) and the other can ask God to help them. They may use Isaiah 61 as a help when praying. If it is easier, you may ask them to pray for those who are homeless, hungry, alone, hurt, etc.

## *Peace Pennants*

*Make dove of peace pennants.*





# *A Game of Reversals*

*Play a game of opposites or reversals.*

Poor	Oppressed
Homeless	Brokenhearted
Hungry	Captive
Hurt	Mourning
Tired	Sorrow
Lonely	Ruins
Rejected	Destruction



# *A Game of Reversals*

*Play a game of opposites or reversals.*

Neglected	Sad
Broken	Weak
Captured	Sick
Anxious	Dirty



# *Joy Jam*

*Make a joy jam rap.*

Joy, Joy, Joy,  
Get your joy jam on.  
Joy, Joy, J-O-Y, Joy.

J for Joy,  
Joy for you,  
Joy for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joy for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joy, Joy, Joy.  
Get your joy jam on!

J for Jesus,  
Jesus gives joy.  
Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Jesus, Joy,  
Joy, Joy, Joy  
Get your joy jam on!

He does \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joy, Joy, J-O-Y, Joy.  
He does \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joy, Joy, J-O-Y, Joy.  
He does \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joy, Joy, J-O-Y, Joy.  
He does \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Joy, Joy, J-O-Y, Joy.

# *JoyJam*

*Make a joy jam rap.*

Jesus gives joy.  
Joy, Joy, Joy.  
Get your joy jam on!  
Joy Joy, J-O-Y, Joy

J-O-Y \_\_\_\_\_

Joy, Joy, Joy

J-O-Y \_\_\_\_\_

Joy, Joy, Joy

Changes  
Rearranges  
Turns around  
Makes a rebound  
New life  
Joy!

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Joy!

# *Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope*

**Isaiah 61:1-11**

*I Learned:*

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# The Story @ Home

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

## Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-14

Isaiah 61:1-11

## Last Week

The prophet Joel declares to those returning from exile that it is the gracious and merciful nature of God that will see the people through their difficulties, just as God saw Daniel through the lions' den (Joel 2:12-13, 28-29).

## This Week

Isaiah proclaims the promise that God will someday restore the people to their land and make life better than it was before, with a specific focus on those who are vulnerable (Isaiah 61:1-11).

### The Point

God will bring justice and peace.

### Bible Nuts & Bolts

#### Justice and Peace

Justice is not the same as equality, since equality means that everyone gets the same. Some have a greater need than others. Justice means that all people have what they need, and no one is left wanting. It is closely connected with the concept of *shalom* (God's peace), which is not just the absence of conflict, but is when everyone is safe and has all that they need. It is the world as God intends it to be. Shalom, and justice, is when no one is hungry, scared, thirsty, sick, or suffering in any way.

### Story Summary

#### Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope

Isaiah prophesied the good news of deliverance to those who were oppressed, brokenhearted, and captives. Things were going to get better! They would be freed and provided for. Their land would be built up and repaired. God would be faithful and bless the people. Isaiah's message was that the Messiah, sent by God, would deliver God's people from suffering and oppression.

### Practice: Prayer

People who are often overlooked by society are not overlooked by God. As stewards of God's love, we can reach out through prayer and action. If possible, buy one or two extra food items per week. Stack them somewhere and gather near them and pray for people in need. When you have a bag of food donations, pray as a family that God will bless the recipients and make their lives easier. Go together to a food pantry and drop off the food.

## Next Week

God chooses Mary to be the bearer of the Messiah, and she goes to her cousin Elizabeth's home. Mary sings her gratitude in a song echoing the reversals in Isaiah 61 (Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]).

## Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ⊕ What good news is there in this passage?
- ⊕ What surprises are in this passage?
- ⊕ What does this tell you about God's love?

## Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

### Sunday—Read Isaiah 61:1-11

This reading is one that brings good news. It is Isaiah's prophesy of hope and deliverance. Find all of the active or doing words (verbs) in this passage. What do they tell you about God?

### Monday—Read Leviticus 25:8-12

The year of jubilee set people free. Modify the card game of Crazy Eights to play a game of Jubilee Sevens .

### Tuesday—Read Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created light. Use a flashlight to look under the bed or in a closet. Thank God for creating light and for being light, making a way through the darkness.

### Wednesday—Read Isaiah 42:1-9

Jesus is a light to the nations. Close your eyes and list the dark things in our world (sin, war, etc.). Open your eyes and talk about the love of God being brighter and stronger than the darkness, making a light for us.

### Thursday—Read Zechariah 9:9-17

Our God and king will save humanity. Using bathrobes, jewelry, scarves, etc. dress up like kings. Read the passage and talk about the contrast. Jesus would be humble and ride on a donkey. He would be about love and deliverance, not about riches and glitz.

### Friday—Read Luke 1:5-24

Zechariah was skeptical when the birth of John the Baptist was foretold. God can do surprising and miraculous things that are hard for the human mind to grasp. What things do you think are impossible? Each time someone shares an idea, the others say, "With God, all things are possible." (from Matthew 19:26).

### Saturday—Read Luke 1:57-80

John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for Jesus, is born. Look through a photo album reading it like a family tree. Who came first? Then who? Who joined with who to prepare the way for which children to be born?