



Kids Club

Elementary Leader Guide

Dec.
Week 1

Leader Info

This week we will begin our Christmas lessons. We will look at some of the Old Testament prophets and their foretelling of Jesus' coming. The people had been waiting for many years for the Messiah to arrive. Some of the key points we will look at are:

- God will do what He says in His own time.
- We need to be patient.
- God is outside of time. He can see the past and future.
- God has a plan.

Introduction:

SUPPLIES: Nativity Set (you will use this weekly and set up a little bit each week).

Explain to kids that the future is something that will happen. Talk about things that will probably happen in the future (such as eating dinner or going to bed). Explain that sometimes what we think will happen, doesn't. Like maybe, we think we will have chicken for dinner, but it burns, so we eat something else instead. Remind them that God's prophecies always happen.

Explain the role of a prophet. Describe how a prophet is not someone who tells or predicts the future, but someone who delivers a message from God. Sometimes this can be a message about the future. To help them understand this, you could write a letter telling someone that Christmas will be on December 25th. Fold it in half and ask a child to deliver it to another child. Explain how they just gave someone a message about the future!

Have kids get in groups and make a list of events that they are looking forward to. Many of these can relate to Christmas, but you can also list other activities like birthdays or a particular sweet treat. Ask the kids if they enjoy waiting or if they wish they could speed up time. Talk about how the people of Israel had been told that a Messiah would come. Think about how hard it is to wait and then point out how many years and generations passed as Israel waited for the Messiah to arrive. Explain that they did not have a set time for the prophecy to happen like you do for your relative's arrival, only a promise that it would happen. Remind the child that Jesus came at the exact time that God had chosen.

Discuss why the people of Israel were excited for Jesus to come. Explain that unlike some of the things on the list we made, Jesus came to bring help for eternity! Talk about how people were lost in sins and unhappy because they were separated from God. Talk about how Jesus came to bring peace between God and His people.

Explain that Isaiah lived many hundreds of years before Jesus, but God told Isaiah that Jesus would come. **Read Isaiah 9:6, 7:14, 53:5, and Micah 5:2.**

Talk about how each of these verses is a clue about Jesus' birth and why He came to the world. Ask the kids if they can tell you what city Jesus would be born in or a clue about Jesus' mother. Ask the kids if they know why Jesus came to the world.

Bring out a nativity set. Throughout the five weeks, you will add pieces. On this, the first week, set up the stable. Point out that the stable is empty and waiting.

Practice saying Isaiah 9:6 together. Pray and thank God that He sent His Son into the world. Ask God to help you tell others about His coming.

Pray for each other: Take prayer requests and have kids spend time praying for each other in small groups.

Week 1: Activities

HIDE & SEEK MATCHING:

SUPPLIES: Christmas Character Cards (2 sets)

Print 2 sets of Christmas Character Cards and cut apart. Hide them all over the room before kids arrive.

Divide kids into 2 teams and have them try to find as many card as possible, bring them back to their group, and try to make as many matches as possible. The team with the most matches wins and gets to share with the class who or what is on each picture.

CRAFT: NATIVITY

SUPPLIES: Make your own Nativity Instructions (1/kid), Make your own Nativity set (1 set/kid), coloring utensils, scissors, plastic or paper bags to carry items home

Kids will begin making their Nativity Scene by coloring and cutting out the characters. Kids may not have time to complete the entire thing, send the instruction sheet home with them so they can finish with their families.

Play this video while kids are working on their Nativity sets.

The Promise of a Savior Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2 - Saddleback Kids
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEpSXxL4Nn4>

