

THIS IS JESUS

UNIT ONE: THE MESSIAH NAMED JESUS PART 1: JESUS THE MESSIAH

Lesson 2: His Arrival Foretold

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN: That Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED: Trust that just as God fulfilled His promises in Jesus, He can and will fulfill the promises that He makes to us.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-31, 2:4-7, 24:1-9; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 11:12-14, 12:10; Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-7; John 19:31-3; Hosea 6:2.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Prophecies about Jesus were more than just predictions; they were promises that God kept.

OVERVIEW:

Jesus' arrival was predicted many times throughout the Old Testament. In this lesson, we will be examining specific prophecies from Isaiah, Micah, Zechariah, and Hosea, and discussing their fulfillment by Jesus. Students are encouraged to consider what promises God has made to them today and trust in His faithfulness.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO:

Each *This Is Jesus* lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These short videos are designed to help you grasp the lesson's main point as you prepare to teach.



BIBLE BACKGROUND

The Bible Background is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. *The Details* give you background info for each book. *The Setting* informs you of what's happening in and around the passage. *The Main Point* gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "CONTEXT"?** In every YM360 Bible Study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context," we mean, at the very least, helping students know *who* wrote the book, *when* it was written, and *why* it was written.
- **WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the *Bible Background* to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Isaiah

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

Zechariah

- *Author:* Zechariah, a priest, wrote the book of Zechariah, though there is some debate over the authorship of the last five chapters.
- *Time frame:* The events of the book begin approximately 520 B.C. It's possible the later chapters were not written until the early 5th century B.C.
- *Purpose:* Zechariah was written after the Israelites returned from exile. Even though the people had returned home, their lives were still exceedingly difficult. Zechariah wrote to encourage the people that God was in control and that He would remain faithful to them. Zechariah also writes about a Messiah from the line of David, who would bring peace back to the people.

Micah

- *Author:* Micah is the prophet who authored the book that bears his name. Micah was a prophet from a region just southwest of Jerusalem.
- *Time frame:* Micah was prophesying in the southern Kingdom of Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, which would put the writing of this book anywhere from 750 A.D. to 687 A.D.
- *Purpose:* Micah is writing to bring God's prophetic message against His people. God speaks out against both Samaria and Jerusalem because of their rebellion.

THE SETTING

This lesson is unique in the sense that it alternates between the setting of the prophets (who were anticipating the arrival of the Messiah) and the life of Jesus (or the fulfillment of the prophecies). The most accurate way to help students understand the setting of the different passages would be to emphasize how many hundreds of years each prophet lived before the arrival of Jesus.

THE MAIN POINT

Over the course of many centuries, the prophets of God were given promises about the Messiah, the Son of God who would be the Savior of the world. Through many prophecies, the people of God were given a glimpse into the future. When the time came for the Son of God to arrive, it was impossible that anyone could fulfill the multitude of prophecies surrounding Him. But Jesus did! And just as God fulfilled all of His promises to us then, we can trust Him to fulfill the promises made concerning our lives and future.

LESSON PLAN

The Lesson Plan contains three elements: an introductory activity called *The Lead In*; the Bible Study section called *The Main Event*; and an application-focused segment called *The Last Word*.

THE LEAD IN

- *Goal:* To help students start thinking about their perception of Jesus, and how the Old Testament prophets (like Isaiah) looked forward to Jesus even though they could not fully ‘see’ Him.
- *Set-Up:* You may choose to print the included PDF as your visual. Or, you may choose to provide your own images and a laptop, tablet, or phone that is capable of presenting these blurred images to your students. Provide a slip of paper and a pen or pencil for each student. (As a reward, provide candy or some other small prize for students who guess correctly.)

FIRST, explain to students that today, you will begin the lesson with a game. Hold up the first “blurred” image from the PDF or from your device. (*Blur the focus so that it is unrecognizable.*) Give each student a slip of paper and a pencil. Ask students to write down what they think the image is. Depending on the time, you may show several more pictures and allow students to guess.

THEN, reveal the clear PDF (or adjust the focus so the image is clear). Once the correct answer has been revealed, you can reward students who guessed correctly with candy. As you pass out the small prize, **ask something like:**

- **Was the image always the same, even though you could not see it clearly in the beginning?**
 - *Answer:* Yes!

FINALLY, **say something like:**

- **Our perception can be blurry sometimes, especially when it comes to Jesus. However, that doesn’t mean that He is blurry. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And the more we learn about Him through the Bible, the clearer the picture of Jesus becomes. Today, we will be reading in the book of Isaiah. Just like you and me, Isaiah could only hope to see the Savior of the world standing before him. All he had was Scripture and the prophecies given to him by God concerning Jesus. His picture was a little more blurry than ours! Let’s take a look at what Isaiah was able to learn about Jesus.**

Make sure there are no questions, and then transition to The Main Event.

THE MAIN EVENT

- *Goal:* To help students see that Jesus’ arrival is foretold numerous times in the Old Testament.
- *Set-Up:* Make sure students have access to a Bible or Bible App.

FIRST, remind students that although we refer to the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) a lot when we talk about Jesus, the entire Bible points to Him. It’s all His story! With that in mind, encourage students to open their Bibles to Isaiah. As they turn, share some information about Isaiah from the Bible Background. Once students are there, **say something like:**

- **If you think about it, it is really quite amazing that God used prophets to predict the coming of the Messiah, His Son. Even more amazing, all these prophecies came true. Even though this happened thousands of years ago, it is still important today. It is important to know that God keeps His word. And we know this because Jesus came to earth just as the prophets predicted. Let’s look at seven different Old Testament prophecies and how they were fulfilled.**

NEXT, briefly remind students of the meaning of the word Messiah. You may choose to ask students if they remember from the previous lesson, or simply give the definition yourself. The Messiah is the anointed one of God, and the promised Deliverer of the world.

AFTER THAT, read or have a student read Isaiah 7:14. **Ask students:**

- **Isaiah says that there will be a sign. What is the sign?**
 - o *Answer:* That a virgin will conceive a son named Immanuel.

Explain to students that this prophecy is pretty wild. As people who live “post Jesus’ arrival,” we often skip over this important prophecy. We can be guilty of being a little unimpressed! Emphasize to students that Isaiah’s prophecy communicates that the arrival of Jesus would be impossible by human capabilities and standards. For a virgin to conceive a child would require an act of God.

THEN, read or have a student read Luke 1:26-31. **Ask students:**

- **How does this relate to the passage we read in Isaiah?**
 - o *Answer:* Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy about the coming Messiah! Mary’s virgin birth is the sign mentioned in Isaiah 7:14.

NEXT, instruct students to turn to Micah 5:2. Briefly explain that Micah is often referred to as one of the minor prophets. However, that doesn’t mean that his message was less important (just that his manuscript was much smaller than the major prophets like Isaiah). Read or have a student read Micah 5:2. **Then ask:**

- **What does Micah tell us about the Messiah and where He will come from?**
 - o *Answer:* He will come from Bethlehem.

Instruct students to turn to Luke 2:4-7. Read or have a student read this passage. **Then ask:**

- **What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? Specifically, where does it say that He was registered after He was born?**
 - o *Answer:* Bethlehem.

Say something like:

- **Micah was not the only minor prophet to share some really specific information about Jesus. Let’s take a look at two passages from the book of Zechariah.**

Read or have a student read Zechariah 11:12-14. Students who are familiar with the Judas betrayal may already have an idea of how this prophecy was fulfilled. (If you think they might know, challenge them to find the passages and read them aloud.) The passages that speak to this prophecy are found in Matthew. Read or have a student read Matthew 26:14-16 and 27:3-7. **Ask students:**

- **Let’s take a moment to consider something. We have now read three very specific prophecies about the coming Messiah, all of which were fulfilled by Jesus at different points of His life.. If we only had these three prophecies and had this evidence of their fulfillment, do you think that would be enough to convince you that He was the Son of God?**
 - o *Answers will vary.* Students may choose to reflect quietly on this question. There isn’t really a ‘right’ answer.

THEN, ask students to turn to Zechariah 12:10. Briefly explain that this prophecy is about how the Messiah will be killed. Read or have a student read this verse aloud. **Say something like:**

- **Imagine having to prophecy that the Son of God, the promised Messiah who is going to be sent to save the world from its sins, is going to be killed by the same people that He came to save. Zechariah had to have great faith in God to be able to share this, even though it really wouldn't have made logical sense. Why would the people kill the Son of God? Don't they know who He is!?**

Read or have a student read John 19:31-37.

Give students a moment to take in the gravity of the passage. Briefly remind them of your question about how many fulfilled prophecies they would need to witness before they believed that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah. Encourage them that it would have been tough to embrace anyone based on three or four prophecies alone, especially if they were unfamiliar with Scripture. However, there is one final prophecy that you will read that is sure to catch anyone's attention.

NEXT, read or have a student read Hosea 6:2. **Ask students:**

- **Although this prophecy is sort of 'indirect,' what does it appear to be saying?**
 - o *Answer:* That God will raise Jesus (and by extension, those who are raised with Jesus- "us") on the third day.

Read or have a student read Luke 24:1-9. **Say something like:**

- **There are a lot of things that are easy to ignore when it comes to the prophecies about Jesus. He's from Bethlehem? Sure... so are a lot of people. He was born to a virgin? That's a little more interesting, but we can just call that a miracle and move on. All of these things may not seem that important to someone who isn't looking for the Son of God. But if you heard that someone rose from the dead, that makes you listen a little more closely, doesn't it? Especially if they rose from the dead three days after dying a brutal death, both of which were prophesied hundreds of years ago.**

FINALLY, wrap up this portion by **saying something like:**

- **When it comes to Jesus, these prophecies were more than just predictions that came true. This wasn't a fun party trick that God gave His prophets so they could impress people hundreds of years later. These prophecies were promises from God. We can look at these promises that God kept over the course of hundreds of years, and ask ourselves, "What has God promised me today?" We know that we can trust His ability to keep His promises!**

Allow for questions, and then transition into The Last Word.

THE LAST WORD

- *Goal:* To help students understand the promises that God has made for their lives.
- *Set-Up:* Print copies of the PDF "God's Promises" for each student. Make sure that students have something to write with.

FIRST, explain to students that you will be passing out a sheet of paper for them to write on and take home to put somewhere that they can see it regularly. On this worksheet, they will be writing down promises that God has given us in Scripture. Pass out the papers and make sure each student has something to write with. Depending on your group size and time constraints, they can pair up to fill these out or fill them out on their own.

THEN, instruct students to find each of the four verses, read them, and write down what God is promising in their own words. Give them a few minutes to complete this. If students need help, or if you would like to spend a few minutes going over each answer, **here is a prompt:**

- **Deuteronomy 4:29**
 - *Answer:* Those who seek God will find Him. He will not remain hidden from us.
- **Matthew 5:7**
 - *Answer:* Those who show mercy will receive mercy from God.
- **Matthew 5:9**
 - *Answer:* Those who make peace (peacemakers) will be called children of God.
- **John 3:16**
 - *Answer:* Those who believe in Jesus receive eternal life

FINALLY, once students are done filling out their worksheets, encourage them to display these somewhere that they will see them throughout the week (even if they take a picture with their phone and set it as their background or create a note). Remind them that God is faithful to fulfill His promises. These four are just a few that they can look towards.

Allow Time For Any Closing Thoughts Or Questions From Your Students. Before Leaving, Close With A Prayer.

- Don't forget to remind students about their devotions this week. If you're posting them on Social Media or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.