



# LIFE & MINISTRY OF JESUS

## Unit 1 • Prophecies and Promises

### UNIT DESCRIPTION

"A striking wonder in connection with the prophecies concerning Christ is their minuteness of description and their precision of performance. They reveal that God is never before His time - nor after! 'Ye shall not see me, until the time come...' (Luke 13:35). An outstanding fact isolating Christ from all others is that He is the one Man in the history of the world of whom explicit details of His birth, life, death, and resurrection were given centuries beforehand. The challenge of this pure miracle is that it has happened to one Man only in the entire history of the world. He is the only Person whose life and ministry were prewritten in the most remarkable manner before He came into the world. As Canon Dyson Hague puts it:

'Who could draw a picture of a man not yet born? Surely God and God alone. Nobody knew over 500 years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born; or over 250 years ago that Napoleon was to be born. Yet here in the Bible we have the most striking and unmistakable likeness of a Man portrayed, not by one, but by twenty or twenty-five artists, none of whom had even seen the Man they were painting.'

"The astounding miracle of these predictions of Christ proves that 'the inspiration of that portrait came from the heavenly Gallery, and not from the studio of an earthly artist. Nothing but Divine prescience could have foreseen it, and nothing but Divine power could accomplish it.' Peter confirms such a sentiment, for he wrote, 'For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.' (2 Peter 1:21)."[1]

As we enter into this year on the life and ministry of Jesus, the students will have the opportunity to learn about the awesomeness of Christ's short time here on earth. This first unit will serve as a bridge from last years' study of God's Incredible Plan. Throughout the entire OT there are numerous prophecies about the coming Messiah. In this unit we will study the complete fulfillment of these prophecies through the birth of Jesus Christ. Their fulfillment did not happen by chance, accident or luck. They were fulfilled exactly as planned because the "planner" is our creator – GOD. He perfectly planned, arranged and controlled the birth, life and death of His son, Jesus Christ.

As you read through this unit, pray that the Holy Spirit will give you and your students deeper understanding of His sovereignty and great love.

[1] All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, 1973, Zondervan Publishing House, p. 59.



# THE UNBROKEN PROMISE

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U1#1 1st-3rd Grade • June 11, 2023

## Concept

God always keeps His promises.

## Goal

Students will learn that God promised to send a Messiah and fulfilled His promise through Jesus. Because God keeps His promises, we can trust Him with our lives.

## Passage

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 53:9, 3, 4, 5; Matthew 1:22, 23; 1 Peter 2:22; Luke 22:63-65; 1 Peter 2:24

Key Verse: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>50 jellybeans in a quart jar with lid</i></li><li>• "How Many?" ballots, 1 ballot/student</li><li>• <i>20 pennies</i></li><li>• Coin toss score sheets, 1 square/student</li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>3 sets of laminated cards, 4 with OT verses, 4 with pictures &amp; 4 with NT verses</i></li><li>• <i>1 set of laminated, magnet-backed NT verses &amp; pictures with the OT verses</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printed badge, 1/child</li><li>• Self-adhesive magnets, 1.5" square/child</li><li>• Markers</li><li>• Crayons</li><li>• Scissors</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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“You have heard many times that Jesus paid for your sins by dying on the Cross at Calvary. What is so amazing is that Jesus died because of a great plan that God had in mind for a long time. Jesus didn’t die just because He made some Jews angry in Palestine two thousand years ago. It was all planned in long ages past. That’s why Isaiah could tell you all about the suffering and death of Jesus over seven hundred years before Jesus was born. But the prophet told not only about Jesus’ death, he also told about the reason for it--‘All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.’ God would lay your sins on His beloved Son. Then the Lord would pronounce you ‘innocent’ of all sin because His Son died in your place. Wasn’t that a most amazing plan?”[1]

“The two Testaments, viewed as wholes, are intimately related, and the relation reveals that ‘through the ages one increasing purpose runs.’ ...

"The foreshadowing in the Old Testament is fulfillment in the New. The promise of the Old, is performance in the New. The redemption which in the Old is anticipated, is in the New accomplished. All the commencements lead to consummations.

"Christ the Redeemer is the sum and substance of both Testaments (Hebrews 10:7), and it is He who gives connection and unity to all Scriptures. In the Old Testament is the preparation for Him; in the Gospels, the manifestation of Him; and in Acts to Revelation, the realization of Him.”[2]

We begin our study of the life and ministry of Jesus with the Old Testament prophecies and promises completely fulfilled through Jesus Christ. The goal is that the students will see and understand the correlation between the OT prophecies and the life and death of Christ. They’ll learn that events in the NT did not just happen. God is not a magician or a lucky guesser. He planned salvation history—from Genesis to Revelation. As you prepare this lesson, read through the following passages (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; I Peter 1:20) and once again be amazed at God’s Incredible Plan. In light of God’s incredible sovereignty to keep His promises throughout history, consider His desire to empower YOU to effective service for Him.

[1] The Explorer’s Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991, p. 941.

[2] W. Graham Scroggie, The Unfolding Drama of Redemption, 1994 Kregel Publishing, pp. 119-120.

## Set Up

### Incorporation Lg. Group

Have Jelly Bean jar and ballots set out for student guesses.

#### Activity Stations:

- **Goal:** To illustrate that nobody can always perfectly predict the future. God is not a “good guesser.” He planned and accomplished the entire redemption process—it didn’t just happen!
- **Jelly Beans in a Jar**
  - **Instructions:** Set out the jar of jellybeans for each student to take a close look and guess how many jellybeans are in it. Have them write the number they guess and their name on the ballot. Announce the winner at the end of class.
- **Coin Toss**
  - **Instructions:** Give each student a coin to toss ten times. Before tossing they will predict how many times it will land on either heads or tails. As they toss the coin have them keep track of their tosses on their score sheet. See how many outcomes matched their prediction.
- **Craft – Rainbow magnet**
  - **Instructions:** Give each child a badge. Color the badge and cut it out. Put a magnet on the back. Make it stick to your refrigerator as a reminder that you can always trust God to keep His promises. Talk about how in the Old Testament, God said a rainbow would be a reminder for the Israelite people of the promise he made (Gen.9).

### Introduction Lg. Group

Last year in Oasis we learned about God's Incredible Plan. We read from the Old Testament and learned many different events that took place all the way back to Adam and Eve in Genesis. What happened in the Garden of Eden to cause evil to come into this world? (Adam and Eve ate from the tree that they were told not to eat from—they committed the first sin.) As a result of their sin and because all of us come from Adam and Eve, all people are born sinners. Romans 6:23 tells us that we die because of sin. The verse, however, does not stop there. It goes on to tell that through Christ, God offers us life that never ends. So God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross as payment for our sin. All we have to do is admit that we sin and personally accept the gift of forgiveness through Christ.

This year we'll learn about the life and ministry of Jesus. And what is really amazing is that as long as many thousands of years before Jesus was born, God told Adam and Eve about His plan to save us from eternal death and separation from Him. Genesis 3:15 is the first verse in the Bible that talks about the savior. It refers to Jesus as a descendant or family member of Eve's. God says that the serpent who is Satan will make Eve's descendant, Jesus, suffer. But in the end Satan will be defeated by Jesus.

## Introduction Continued

So in Genesis 3 we first learn of God's Incredible Plan to save His people from eternal death. Matthew 1:21 is our key verse. It says, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." An angel told Joseph that Mary would have a son, named Jesus, and He would save people from their sins... from eternal death and separation from God.

## Transition

We're going to see a skit about a guy who thinks he can predict the future. Watch carefully and see what you think about Perry and his predictions.

## Learning Activity #1 Lg. Group

**Drama – "Perry the Perfect Predictor" skit performed by the Drama Team**

## Transition

Go back to your classrooms to talk about the only true predictor.

## Lesson Lg. Group

In the skit Perry wanted us to believe he knew the outcome of the math problems because he was good at predicting the future. Was he a perfect predictor? (No, he wasn't.) Perry was good at doing tricks. Does anyone know how Perry knew the answer to the number board problem would be 34? (Accept various explanations.) Perry had it worked out and knew that the numbers would always equal 34. There's a big difference between doing tricks and predicting the future.

Unlike Perry in the skit, God's plan happened exactly as God said it would. That's because God planned it and He is powerful enough to accomplish His plan exactly as He says it will happen. 1 Peter 1:20 says, "Christ was chosen before the world was made..." How did God know Jesus was going to be born and be our savior? God planned and accomplished the whole thing! He loves us that much!

## Transition

Everyone grab a Bible and get into small groups for a game.

## Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

**Game – "Match Up"**

**Instructions:** Divide into 3 groups. The teams will compete against each other to see who can make the most matches. Give each team a set of laminated pictures. First they must match the pictures with the corresponding Old Testament verses by paper clipping the picture to the verse. Then they match the corresponding New Testament verses to Old Testament verses and pictures by paper clipping them on top of the pictures. When a team completes all steps, they run up to the teacher with the matches. The winner is the first team to correctly finish.

## Learning Activity# 2 Continued

### Debrief

In the Old Testament God spoke through His messengers called prophets. These prophets spoke about the savior that God promised to Adam and Eve. Let's look at some of the Old Testament prophecies that we just matched with the New Testament verses that tell about the actual arrival of the savior. (Put the provided large laminated pictures and verses on the white board.)

Now we can see that of all the prophecies that have been fulfilled so far, God perfectly accomplished what He said He would. God clearly planned the birth, rejection, death and burial of His Son from the beginning of time. God promised to send a savior and He did—His Son, Jesus. Turn to Matthew 1:21, our key verse. "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

### Transition

Let's get into discussion groups to talk about what this means to us.

## Learning Activity# 3 Sm. Groups

God is faithful to His promises. So far, everything He's promised that has come true has happened exactly as He said it would. So we can count on Him to keep His promises in the future.

- God says that we don't have a relationship with Him because of our sin, but He wants to have a relationship with us. What did He do to make that relationship possible? (Jesus died for our sins)
- What do we have to do to make that relationship possible? How do we trust Him to forgive our sins? (believe that Jesus died to pay for our sins and will forgive us if we admit our need and ask His death to pay for our punishment)
- What are some reasons it can be hard to trust God?
- Because we know God keeps his promises and he will always love us, we can trust God with our lives. What are some things we can trust God to help us with? (tell others about Jesus; treat others as more important than ourselves; think about others' needs before our own; do something you're afraid to do, asking and believing that He will give you what you need.)
- Who would like to share about a time you decided to trust God? What happened?

**Missions Prayer:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving

Just as God promised to send a savior to save people from their sins, He promises to provide His people with everything they need. We can trust that He will do what He says. Let's pray now and thank God for keeping His promises. Is there anything else you would like to pray about?

## Transition

### Optional Activity

Review key points of lesson, how they apply to students and the key verse

#### **Game – My Name is... & I love...[1]**

**Instructions:** Students will walk around/mingle until you yell out a number. They are to form a group with that number of people in it. When they form the group, they are to sit down and tell their name and their favorite \_\_\_\_\_ (food, game, color/teacher chooses) to the others in the group. Then say "Mingle" and start mingling again until the leader calls out another number. Repeat the steps above and share the same favorite thing. Continue until all the children have been in a group together. Then meet as a class and see who can remember the most!

[1] Adapted from "Grab Groups," Jim Burns, Mark Simone and Joel Lusz, Games, Crowdbreakers and Community Builders, © 1997 by Jim Burns, Gospel Light Publishers, p. 138.