



# God Promises to Send the Messiah, Part Two

*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; 2:1–12; Micah 5:2*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will trust God and His Word, which tells about Jesus, the Messiah.

## BIBLE TRUTHS

- God promised to send Jesus as a baby 700 years before His birth.
- God promised that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- God gives His people hope.
- God fulfills His promises.

## KEY VERSE

“Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

## APPLICATION

- Humbly obey Christ, the King.
- Trust God to fulfill His promises.
- Worship Christ as Lord and Savior.

## NEXT WEEK

God Reveals the Messiah  
Read Matthew 1:18–25 and Luke 1:26–38.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

**Objectives/Truths** to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Application

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to*

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- \_\_\_\_\_
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*Three ways students need to apply this passage are*

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## Materials Needed

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## POINT

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

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## PROCLAIM

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

### Presentation Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Praise/Music Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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## PRACTICE

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

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## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your sons” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

It is obvious that in the plan of God, the incarnation of the second person of the Trinity was neither a surprise nor an afterthought. In fact, the birth of the Messiah was planned before the foundation of the world and was foretold in numerous Old-Testament passages. This Messiah would become a man, Jesus Christ. With regard to this lesson, it should be noted that Matthew takes specific Old Testament prophecies (Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2) and proves that Jesus is the Messiah because He fulfilled these prophecies.

These prophecies unmistakably identified Jesus as the Christ. They also served to mark Jesus with the seal of God, as it was God Himself who ultimately authored the prophecies (Matt. 1:22, “spoken by the Lord through the prophet”). Any Jew who knew the prophecies regarding the Messiah and investigated the origin and life of Jesus would have been confronted with the truth. But it takes more than knowing the truth for someone to believe. It also takes the Spirit of God changing a person’s sinful heart. The account of the visit of the wise men in Matthew 2 shows this to be true. Herod and the chief priests and scribes had a curious visit from foreigners with a remarkable query: “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?” (Matt. 2:2). Yet Herod and the chief priests and scribes failed to have faith. Indeed, Herod even sought to kill the Messiah.

Prophecy plays an important role in the book of Matthew. “Matthew points out fulfillments of OT prophecies no less than a dozen times (cf. 2:15, 17, 23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:14, 35; 21:4; 26:54–56; 27:9, 35). He quotes from the Old Testament more than 60 times, more frequently than any other New Testament writer, except Paul in Romans” (John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* [Nashville: Word Publishing Group, 1997], 1394 n. 1:22). This emphasis should not be a surprise, considering that of all the Gospels, the book of Matthew is particularly Jewish. The Old Testament was important to Matthew’s faith as a Jew. And being convinced of who Jesus was, he believed in Him and communicated this faith to his readers.

#### The Prophecy of Isaiah 7:14: Immanuel, “God with Us”

During the reign of King Ahaz (735–715 B.C.), Isaiah made a significant prophecy. Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel, had joined forces to hold back the growing power of the Assyrians. They tried to persuade Ahaz to join them. Ahaz refused, and as a result, they attempted to capture Jerusalem, the capital of Judah. Jerusalem was a heavily fortified city that was difficult to overthrow. These combined forces failed to take the city. Jerusalem was a key city of commerce on the trade routes through the region, and the king of Syria still wanted to control it. He pulled his troops back into Ephraim, waiting for a better time to strike. This left the people of Judah extremely afraid.

The prophet Isaiah records this event and relays an important message from the Lord

### Additional Reference Materials

*The MacArthur Study  
Bible* by John MacArthur

(Isa. 7:1–16). He told Ahaz that Rezin’s campaign would not succeed. The Lord Himself would protect the nation of Judah. The Lord asked Ahaz to choose a sign that would confirm His word, but Ahaz refused. So the Lord chose a sign for him, but it was a sign that would not come for over 700 years. This message confirmed to everyone that the Lord would do what He said. “Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14). The Lord kept His promise. Pekah and Rezin did remain in Ephraim. Eventually, both of their nations were overthrown by Assyria.

But the sign still was significant. It promised that God would come and dwell with the people. There would be no greater protection than to have God come to live with men. Furthermore, this would be an amazing miracle. About 700 years later, Jesus was born. God did fulfill His promise and gave the people a great sign. This was the first and last time that a woman became pregnant while still a virgin. The child was not an ordinary child. He was God and man. Jesus came to earth as a baby. The promise given a long time before was fulfilled.

### **Micah 5:2: The King Born in a Small Town**

Nebuchadnezzar was now the king of Judah. He had already conquered Judah and had appointed Zedekiah as the local ruler of Judah. The people of Israel should have repented after the first conquest. The Lord had warned them through many prophets over a period of 350 years, but they would not listen. The Lord had sent many into captivity already. Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, hoping to gain independence. However, the Lord was not finished chastening His people, and Nebuchadnezzar came back to destroy Jerusalem and its temple. He laid siege against the city. Micah prophesied that the Lord would continue to judge the nation.

The Lord did not give up on His people, even though they were rebellious. He promised that one day a king would arise in Judah and take the throne. This king would be born in the same city where king David had been born, the city of Bethlehem. It was considered a small and unimportant village. There was no palace or fortified wall. It was not a place where one would expect a king to be born. This is what made the prophecy miraculous. God would send His Son to a small and insignificant place. The Jews waited for the day when a king from the line of David would come and take the throne. They waited for the day when they would again be a country and have God’s blessing on their land. The great king of the universe would be born in a little farming village.

For hundreds of years, the Jews watched the little city, waiting for the king to come. At last, 700 years after Isaiah’s prophecy, Jesus, the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem. God was again faithful to His promise. He did just what He said He would do.

### **God Was and Is Faithful**

Matthew demonstrates in two clear and powerful ways that Jesus’ birth was the fulfillment of ancient promises. Jesus was born from a virgin as the God-man, fulfilling Isaiah’s message. He was born in Bethlehem as the Messiah (Matt. 2:1–12). God knows the end from the beginning. He is powerful enough to make whatever He says happen. This kind of power and knowledge should move us to worship and practice unquestioning obedience. It should cement in our minds that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and Lord over all.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"*  
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

Is Christmas just a celebration of the birth of a baby?  
*No; we celebrate the coming of the Messiah, the promised King.*

What was the promise to Satan in the garden of Eden?  
*One of Eve's descendants would destroy him.*

Who is that descendant?  
*Jesus.*

What was the promise given to Abraham?  
*One of his descendants would bless the earth.*

What would that blessing be?  
*Anyone who believes in Jesus would have eternal life.*

What promise was given to Judah?  
*One of his descendants would be king of the earth.*

Who fulfilled these promises?  
*Jesus.*



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### Cityscape

On one wall, hang a large section of butcher paper with some building silhouettes representing a large city drawn on it. On the opposite wall, hang a smaller section of butcher paper with only one or two houses and a barn. The students can design and color the city and small village. During the lesson, refer to the large city as a place like Jerusalem. Explain that God promised that the Messiah would come from the small village of Bethlehem.

**Variation:** Build a fancy, towering city with blocks on one table, and have just a few plain blocks on another table to represent Bethlehem.



### Palaces for Princes

Ask students where they were born. Many will know the name of the hospital and the state in which they were born. There may even be one or two students who were born at home. Explain to the students that in Jesus' time, everyone was born at home. There were no hospitals. Ask the students what kind of house a king lives in. They will likely answer that a king lives in a castle or palace. Tell them that palaces are built in big and important cities. Tell the students that Jesus is King of the universe. Ask them what kind of house and what kind of city Jesus should have



been born into. Tell them that in today's lesson, we will find out that Jesus was not to be born in a palace or in a big city. He was to be born in Bethlehem, a small village. In today's lesson, the students will find out why.

### **I Will Keep My Promise**

Ask the students whether they have ever made a promise to anyone. Then ask if they broke their promises or kept them. What happens when a promise is broken? How do you feel when someone breaks a promise to you? God is always faithful to keep His promises. Today we will talk about a promise that God made 700 years before He fulfilled it.



### **Ring the Bells**

Ask the students to name their favorite Christmas songs about bells ("Silver Bells," "Jingle Bells," "Carol of the Bells") and then sing them while allowing the students to ring bells in time to the music. Explain that in today's lesson, they will learn about men in the Old Testament who prophesied about Jesus' birth.

## **PROCLAIM THE TRUTH**

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### **Bible Lesson**

Christmas is so exciting because we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the King of heaven and earth. Do you know what a king is? A king is someone who is in charge of a country. He rules over the country. Some kings take over a country with an army and become king. Most of the time, a king is born into a royal family. He is born as a prince. That means he is the son of a king. When his father dies, he becomes king. Israel had many kings. Who are some of the famous kings you know? (Saul, David, and Solomon) Kings have a big job. They need to protect the people with their armies and make wise decisions to help the people.

Many years after King Solomon, there was a king named Ahaz. (Have the students repeat the name several times). He was the king of Judah. This is where Jerusalem was. God made a promise that He would bless Judah as long as the kings and the people obeyed Him. If they obeyed God, He would protect them from their enemies. If they did not obey, God would send their enemies to punish them. He wanted them to cry out for help and obey Him. Most of Israel and Judah did not obey. They sinned almost all the time.

The people of Judah had not been obeying God. They did not love Him or His Word. Some even followed false gods. So God sent the king of Syria to attack Judah. God did not let Syria win, but King Ahaz was still afraid. He knew the king of Syria hated Judah and wanted to destroy it. He was not far away in Israel. So Ahaz prayed for God's help.

God did something amazing. He told Ahaz that He would help him. God asked Ahaz to pick a sign—a miracle that would show God’s power. But Ahaz did not believe that God would do the miracle. He thought that God was not going to help him. But in Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah said, “The LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” God always does what He says, even if we do not do what we are supposed to do. So God gave him a sign, but Ahaz would never see it. God promised that He would send a child, who would be called Immanuel, into the world. This was important because *Immanuel* means “God with us.” This was an incredible sign. God would send His Son to earth to live as a baby and then grow up. Who was this baby? It was Jesus. Here is what is more amazing: God made this promise 700 years before Jesus came to earth. That is a long time. God sent His Son because the people of the world needed God’s help with their sin. God promised to be with His people. That gave them great hope. Imagine how excited Joseph and Mary were when they heard that their son was going to be “God with us.”

There is another amazing part to the story. God was going to send Jesus to an unexpected place. God gave a message to Judah through the prophet Micah. One day, they would have a king from Judah who was going to be born in a little village. Kings normally are born in beautiful palaces. But Jesus was going to be born in the same city where David had been born. It was a little village called Bethlehem, which means “house of bread.” God was going to send His Son to be with His people. His Son was going to be born in a quiet little village where no one would expect it to happen. He was a king who deserved to be born in a great palace in Jerusalem.

What does this mean? Why are these prophecies about Jesus important? First, they were given a very long time before Jesus came. Only God can know the future. We can trust His promises. Second, God was going to send His Son to live with sinful men. Third, He was going to come humbly in a little village. God Himself was humble. We, too, should be humble and not proud.



## Lesson Questions

What is a king?

*A king is ruler of a country. He is in charge.*

Was Ahaz a king?

*Yes; he ruled Judah many years after Solomon.*

Why was Ahaz afraid?

*The king of Syria wanted to destroy his kingdom.*

Did Ahaz believe that God would help?

*No.*

What did God promise to Ahaz?

*One day He would send a baby who would be God’s Son.*

Where was this King going to be born?

*In Bethlehem.*

Was this a fancy place?

*No; it was just a small village.*

Why was the promised King going to be born in Bethlehem?

*It was David's city. And it showed that God Himself was humble. He was born in a common little village, even though He was the great King of the universe.*

How can you be humble?

*[Allow students to give various answers.]*

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



### Visit from Isaiah

After explaining that Jesus came to earth as a human at a specific time in history, inform the students that your class will have a special visitor—Isaiah. Have a man dress in a historical costume and visit the class. He could tell about the problem Ahaz had, how scared Ahaz was, and what kind of promise God made to Ahaz. He could tell about a friend named Micah, who told about Jesus being born in Bethlehem. He could bring in pictures of Jerusalem and of Bethlehem, and perhaps could teach the lesson or part of it. The students could talk to him and touch him while being reminded that Jesus had a physical body like ours when He was here on earth.

## Praise and Worship

*Away in a Manger*

*Joy to the World!*

*Silent Night*



### Just as God Said

God, as a baby, to earth came down,  
*(Point up; then make a wide circle with arms.)*

Born in tiny Bethlehem town.  
*(Pretend to rock a baby with arms.)*

It happened just as the Scriptures told,  
*(Hold hands like an open book.)*

By prophets and the wise men of old.  
*(Point to temple.)*

At Christmastime, when you hear bells,  
*(Cup hands by ears.)*

Think of the Savior, Immanuel.  
*(Point to temple; then point up.)*



## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



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### Promises Fulfilled Ornaments, Week Two

Cut out colored construction paper in the shape of a Christmas ornament. Give each student a pair of preprinted verses, one with a prophecy and with its fulfillment. The following are suggested verses:

Born in Bethlehem—Micah 5:2 with Luke 2:4, 7

Immanuel, “God with us”—Isaiah 7:14 with Matthew 1:23

Instruct the students to glue a verse on each side of their ornaments. Then supply the class with glitter glue, stickers, and markers or crayons, and have the students decorate the ornaments. Finally, punch holes in the tops of the ornaments, and tie ribbons through the holes for hanging.



### Immanuel Bell

Before class, cut a small slit in the bottoms of some silver muffin cups. There should be enough muffin cups for every student to have one. Have each student color a wooden craft spoon a solid color; then help him to slide the handle of the spoon through the slit in the upside-down muffin cup. The spoon will form a handle for the “bell.”

**Variation:** Have each student string a large jingle bell onto a ribbon. The ribbon should be 20 inches in length and 1½ inches in width. Have the student write “Immanuel” on one side of the ribbon and “God with us” on the other side. Tie the ends of the ribbon in a knot so the student can wear it around his neck.



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### Bethlehem Silhouette

Before class, cut the following shapes from black construction paper. Make enough so that each student has one of each piece.

3 x 2-inch piece for a tower

2 x 2-inch piece for a house

3 x 2-inch piece with a domed roof

1½ x 2½-inch piece for a house

Print Micah 5:2 on white paper (one sheet for each student). Cut them into strips to be glued onto the bottom of the Bethlehem craft.

During class, give each student a sheet of blue construction paper. Have the students glue the four building silhouettes onto the blue construction paper. Direct them to glue the pieces so that they are on the ground at the bottom of the page. Glue the verse to the bottom over a portion of the city. Have the students glue glitter across the sky. While they are working, talk about the promise that Jesus would be born in a little city.

### Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



**MEMORY VERSE**

*Use this verse for this week and for the next two weeks.*

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23).



**Isaiah said to unbelieving Ahaz, "Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son" (Isa. 7:14).**





**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).**

