



SOJOURN FAMILY

SERMON SERIES GUIDE: ISAIAH

- Integrating the Gospel in our daily family life -

God's Plan

**Isaiah 7:1-14; 9:1-7; 11:1-5;
Micah 5:2**

God's plan for the world was never a secret plan. Throughout the Old Testament, God gave messages to prophets who told God's people what was going to happen. One of those prophets was Isaiah.

God promised to send a Messiah- a Savior- to save people from sin and death. He even told Isaiah specific details about how the Savior would come into the world.


Did these things really happen? Yes! Hundreds of years after God gave these messages to the prophets, everything the prophets Isaiah and Micah said about Jesus came true.

How do you feel when you think about something that is going to happen in the future- like a party or family vacation? Sometimes things can come up to keep these plans from happening, but God had a plan to send Jesus long before His son was born. Nothing stopped God's plan. God promised His people that He would send a Savior, and God always keeps His promises.

A Special Prayer

*Dear God, thank you that we can trust you to always keep your promises. Thank you for sending Jesus to keep the greatest promise of all. Help us keep our promises, too.
In Jesus' name, amen.*

What's Coming?



Activity: Place a variety of colored candies in a bag. Take turns pulling a piece of candy from the bag and have each person guess what color the candy will be. If someone guesses incorrectly, they must sit down. Continue playing until only one person is left.

Reflect: Was it difficult to guess the color of the candy? Making an accurate prediction is hard. Only God knows the future. The prophets we learn about were not making guesses about God's plan. God shared this plan with the prophets so that they could share it with God's people.



The Jesus Connection

Your relationship with Jesus is an amazing gift. And God planned long ago to give you that gift. Thank him for this life-giving blessing! Long ago, God chose to prepare the hearts of his people with the news that a Savior would come. As you prepare for Christmas, take some time to allow God's message of hope and salvation to sink in for you.

Pray about your heart's desire to live this Christmas season immersed in the meaning of God's promises



Promise Cards



When we're all honest and keep our promises to one another, we feel closer to our friends and family. We know we can trust them to do what they say and not disappoint us, and they know the same about us. That's how God wants us to trust him. God wants us to read the Bible and see all the ways he's kept his promises to us. Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

Activity: Using construction paper, make cards by folding in half. Provide markers and other art supplies to write and decorate with. God promised to be with you. Think of a promise you can make to someone that will help that person see God is with him or her. This promise could be for a family member, or it could be for a friend. After you've thought of someone, write "Dear" and the person's name on the inside of your card. Then write your promise to that person. For example, you could promise your mom that you will help her with the dishes every night next week. It could be any meaningful promise you want to make and keep. Give kids time to write their cards, and then have them decorate the fronts of the cards. Take these cards with you, and pray about how you want to give them to the people you wrote them to. Then take the action steps needed to make these promises turn into reality.

Talk About It

- **What's it like to know you've made a promise and that someone is waiting for you to follow through?**
- **What difference does it make whether you keep the promises you make?**
- **What difference does it make to you to know that God has always kept every promise he's made?**

Resources

- **Focus on the Family Article: Expecting the Unexpected**
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/expecting-the-unexpected-living-with-expectancy-rather-than-expectations/>
- **The Gospel Coalition Article: The Most Important Lesson Parents Teach**
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/important-lesson-parents-teach/>

Daily Challenges

- Get some paper and writing supplies. Pray about the way you honor your promises. As you pray, creatively express your promise-keeping through creative writing. When you're done, pray and ask God to help you keep your promises.
- Draw small pictures to depict the different ways God has kept promises to you or other people you know. Combine those drawings into a collage so you can stand back and admire the promises God's kept. Hang your collage in a prominent place in your room, and remember to thank God for keeping his promises when you see it.
- Put your promise card in a place you won't forget it. When you get home, talk to someone in your family about it. Give your card to the person you wrote it to, and ask God to help you as you follow through on this promise.