

**Lessons 6-A and 6-B: A PROMISE OF PEACE AND SAFETY
IN THE LORD'S KINGDOM**

Isaiah 11:1-10, 65:17-25

Lesson 6-A (Isaiah 11: 1-10)

INTRODUCTION:

Before the Lord was born on earth, the power of evil had grown too strong. People on earth were not safe from being tricked and controlled by evil spirits; and in the spiritual world, evil spirits were fooling good people, making it very hard for them to get into heaven.

But after the Lord was born on earth, He spent over thirty years fighting against the hells, and He conquered them, and the evil spirits lost their power to deceive good people and keep them from the happiness of heaven. The Lord established a new heavenly kingdom, and brought back peace and order.

Today we will read a prophecy, spoken by the prophet Isaiah long before the Lord was born on earth. It was a promise, that when the Lord came and established his new heavenly kingdom, the evil would not be able to harm the good any more.

READING:

Now read aloud with the children **Isaiah 11:1-10**. Have a Bible for each child, and either have them take turns reading, or follow along while you read.

DISCUSSION:

Look at verse 1. Who is this Rod from the stem of Jesse, and this Branch, that will come? (The Lord Jesus Christ.) He was the Hero, who would come into the world to set things right.

Look at verses 6 to 8. There are some gentle creatures mentioned here, and some dangerous ones. What are the gentle creatures and children? (Lamb, young goat, calf, little child, cow, nursing child, weaned child.) What are the dangerous creatures? (Wolf, leopard, young lion, bear, cobra, viper.)

Normally, if you placed these gentle creatures and children next to these dangerous creatures, would they be safe? (No!) These dangerous creatures would want to hurt the gentle ones. The dangerous creatures represent the different kinds of evil spirits who want to harm innocent people. The gentle creatures and children represent good and innocent people.

This prophecy describes a scene in which innocent creatures and children can be there right next to these dangerous creatures and *no harm can come to them!* They are perfectly safe! This whole scene represents how it is in the Lord's kingdom of heaven. The people there are always perfectly safe, because the Lord protects them. The evil spirits have absolutely no power to hurt them any more.

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Look at verse 9. The “holy mountain” means heaven. The evil spirits cannot destroy anything there, because the Lord’s wonderful truth has come to protect the good, filling the world just like the waters covering the sea.

Earth is not as safe as heaven. Troubles can happen here because of evil, and that is why your parents try to teach you a lot about safety. But since the Lord’s coming, evil spirits cannot capture anyone against their will anymore. We on earth are perfectly safe from evil spirits capturing us if we don’t want them to. The Lord’s protection is more powerful than all the hells put together, and He gives power to all the good people on earth who work to protect others from harm.

So this scene in Isaiah is a promise to each one of us. When we follow the Lord, and work to live the way He wants us to, He leads us ever closer to His wonderful kingdom, where nothing can ever hurt us anymore.

PROJECT: Felt Banner

A flannel banner depicting the scene described in Isaiah 11:6-9. You will need a large piece of light blue or white flannel for the background, then many small squares of different colors of felt. You will also need a supply of scissors, fabric glue, and perhaps some letter stencils for making the title.

Go up to the chalkboard. Have the children look in their Bibles at verses 6 to 9, and tell you all the images that are described. Write them briefly on the board as they say them. You should end up with each of the following:

Wolf with a lamb
Leopard with a young goat
Calf with a young lion
Little child
Cow and a bear (their young lying down together)
Lion eating straw
Little baby playing by a cobra’s hole
Older baby, putting his hand in a viper’s den
All on a mountain, with waters around the bottom

Have group discussion as to how to arrange these images on the banner, sketching their thoughts on the board. Have the children choose one or more of the above images to cut out of felt to put on the banner. **Important: Emphasize that this scene must show that the dangerous animals have become harmless, so the dangerous animals must be made to look harmless to the gentle ones.**

Now give them felt and scissors and have them get to work. Some can work to cut out letters for a title at the top of the banner, which should read:

THE LORD’S PROMISE OF PROTECTION IN HIS KINGDOM

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The printout of the text from Isaiah 11:6-9 should be displayed next to the banner when it is hung somewhere in the church. Make a copy of the enclosed text to hang, and leave the original in the folder.

Note: It might be helpful to provide pictures of the various animals mentioned for the children to look at while they make their felt figures.

Lesson 6-B (Isaiah 65: 17-25)

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we read a passage from chapter 11 of the book of the prophet Isaiah, in which the Lord made promises about what things would be like in His kingdom. Can you remember any of the symbols in that chapter, and what the Lord was promising with them? (Review, as you feel necessary.)

Today we will read from chapter 65 of the book of Isaiah, in which the Lord again was making promises about how things would be in His kingdom. As we read it, see if you can guess what some of the symbols might mean.

READING AND DISCUSSION:

(Now read. Have students read aloud or follow along as you read from Isaiah 65: 17-25. Read each section as follows, pause to see if they have any idea about what it is referring to, and then telling them the general meanings as briefly described below.)

Verses 17-18

The “new heaven” and “new earth” mean the Lord’s New Church in heaven and on earth, which would come. The truth from this new church would have the power to bring great joy to people, to take away all sadness and pain, and to bring people closer to the Lord than ever before.

Verses 20-23

The number 100 means “fullness”. In verse 20, the Lord is promising that in his kingdom, everyone shall live life to its fullest; but sadly, anyone who makes his or her life full of evil will live miserably.

In verse 21 the Lord promises that everyone in His kingdom will have a home, and plenty to eat. And more deeply, this means that people’s minds will always be full of good, true, and pleasant things, and the people will always have a satisfied feeling, like you have when you live in a safe home with plenty to eat.

In verse 22, we see the promise that no one can take anything away from you when you are in the Lord’s kingdom. We also see the promise of a long, happy life, with many enjoyable jobs to do. No one will ever be bored in the Lord’s kingdom!

In verse 23, the Lord promises that the things that you try to do will not ever come to nothing. In His kingdom, the Lord is there to make all your loving efforts turn out right, because everyone there is a true child of the Lord, our Father.

Verses 24-25

These verses promise that the Lord hears us, and knows exactly what we need. Then the Lord repeats the beautiful promise that we heard last week in Isaiah chapter 11, that in His kingdom, no evil forces can hurt us any more.

PROJECT:

Finish the flannel banner that was started last time.

Quote: The Lord Promises Peace and Safety

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

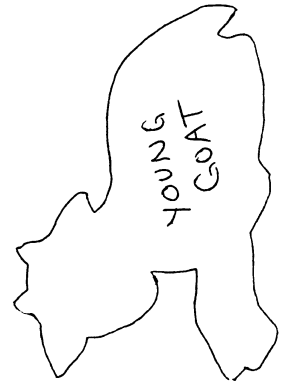
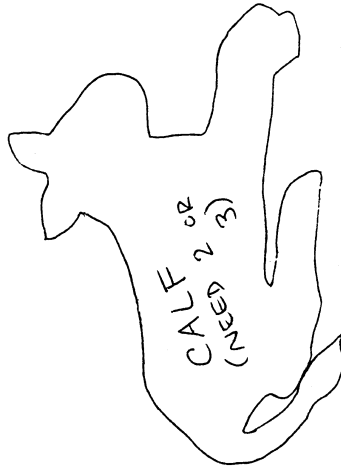
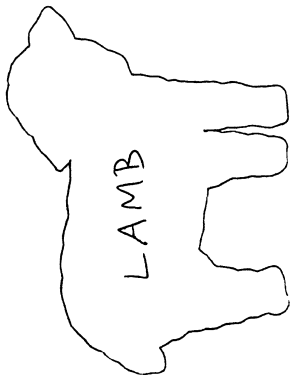
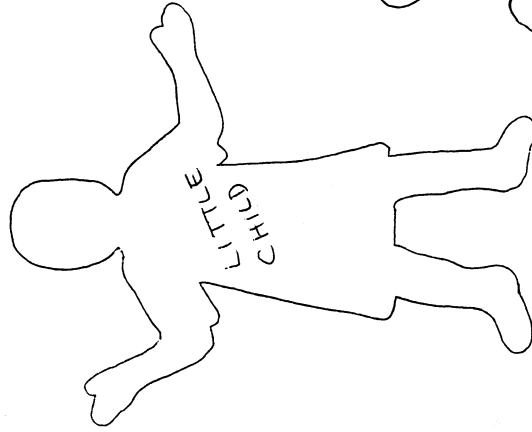
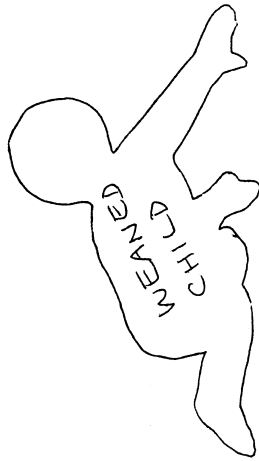
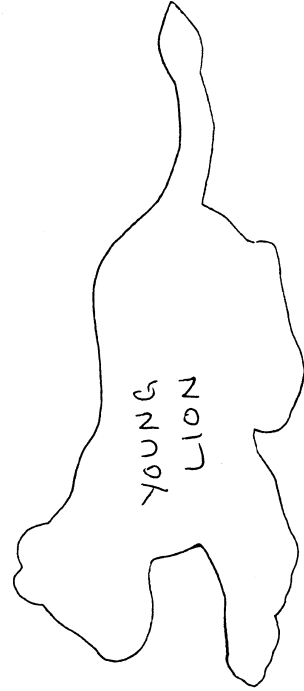
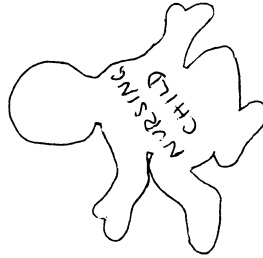
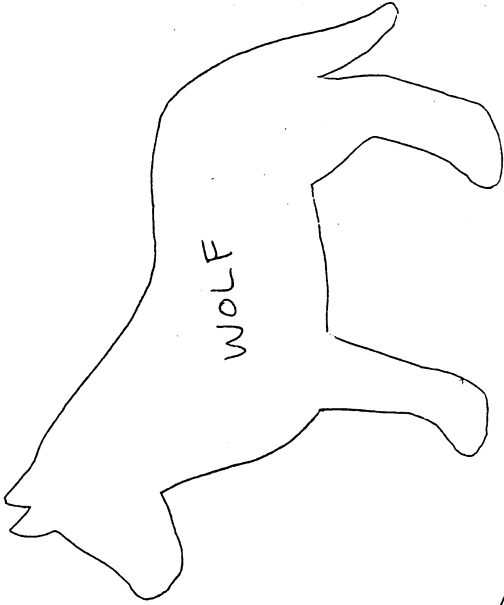
The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

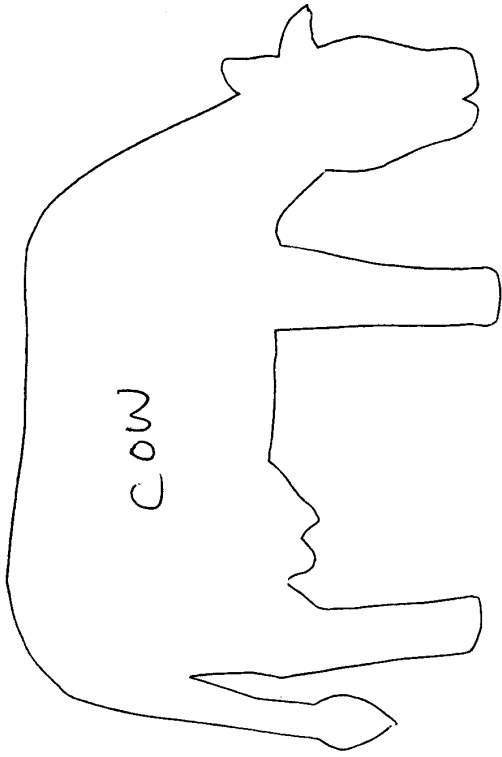
The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters cover the sea.

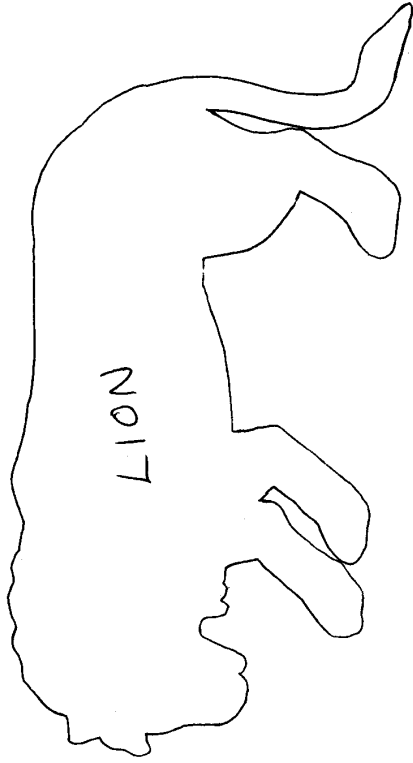
Isaiah 11:6-9

Project Patterns

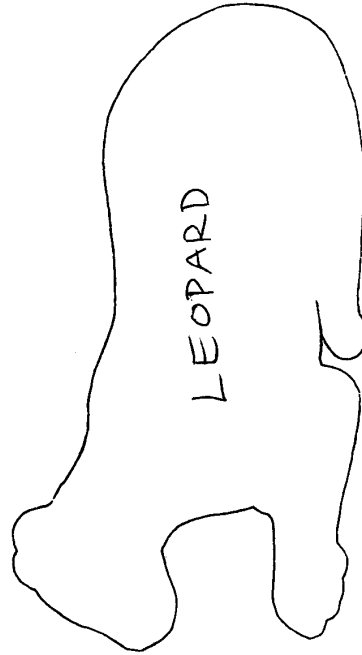




LION



LEOPARD



BEAR

