

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 1
Why the Lord Was Born on Earth (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. When the Lord came into the world, people didn't even know that there was an internal. Earthly-external things had full possession of their minds. (AC 2553:2)
- B. After mankind had removed itself from the good of love and of charity, light could no longer be produced through heaven, thus no wisdom and intelligence could penetrate to mankind. (AC 180:5)
- C. The Lord has never left people without sufficient truth to guide them.
- D. If the Lord had not come into the world, mankind would have destroyed itself.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. This year in Sunday School we will be learning about the things the Lord did while He lived in this world. But before we talk about those things, we're going to talk about how He got people ready for His birth.
2. Now, what do you think would have happened if the Lord had never told people that He was going to be born on earth? What if a tiny baby was born, grew up into a man, and tried to tell the people around Him that He was the Lord? Do you think they would have believed Him? Probably not!
3. So what do you think the Lord did? He sent prophets ahead of time to tell people that He was going to come. Do you know what a *prophet* is? (Someone who speaks for the Lord.) And do you know what a *prophecy* is? (A message from the Lord.)
4. Do you know what the Old Testament is? It's part of the Word. [Show children the portion of the Word that is the Old Testament.] The Old Testament is full of prophecies that the Lord would be born on earth.
5. Isaiah was one of the Lord's prophets. He lived on earth *hundreds* of years before the Lord was born! He gave people many messages - prophecies from the Lord, and they are written down in the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah. Let's read two of Isaiah's prophecies and talk about them.

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B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."
 - a. Who do you think the Child was that was going to be born? (The Lord Jesus)
 - b. What's the name of the holiday that celebrates the Lord's birthday? (Christmas)
2. Isaiah 9:2 - "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."
 - a. Why don't you all close your eyes and imagine that you're walking outside in the dark. As you walk, you suddenly trip over something, fall down, and skin your knee. Ouch! That hurts! You get up off the ground and walk some more, and bang! You walk right into somebody and knock him down. Ow! Are you feeling confused, scared?
 - b. Now imagine that a great light comes on. (Open your eyes!) You can see everything. You know which way to walk, so you don't fall down; you don't hurt yourself or somebody else. Now you feel happy and safe.

C. Further Ideas

1. Darkness for our eyes means we can't see where we are going, so we trip and fall and get hurt. What do you suppose darkness means when it is in our minds? [Let children share some of their ideas and lead them around to: Darkness in our minds means we don't see (know) what is true, so we hurt ourselves and sometimes other people.]
2. The Lord is the great light that shows our minds the right way to go so we won't hurt our self and others.
3. Do you know why the Lord, the great light, had to be born on earth?
 - a. People were very bad, and hardly anyone remembered how to be good anymore. The Lord had to come to earth to teach them how to be good; then they could get to heaven.
 - b. Evil spirits in the other world were tricking good spirits and keeping them from going to heaven. They could do this because very few good spirits really understood what heaven was like, and they didn't realize the evil spirits were fooling them. While the Lord was on earth. He fought against those evil spirits. He put them back into hell where they belonged and led the good spirits to their homes in heaven.

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III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "See the Savior in the temple," *Hymnal* #166.

B. Project: TORN PAPER COLLAGE

Text: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

1. Materials Needed

- a. 9X12 black construction paper
- b. Small pieces yellow construction paper (about 5 X 5 minimum) for the great light
- c. Scraps/small pieces other colors (should include pink or flesh, as well a variety of clothing colors)
- d. Glue
- e. For the teacher: silver or gold pen

2. Method

- a. Distribute glue, 1 piece yellow and 1 piece of 9 X 12 black paper per child.
- b. Children tear the yellow into a "great light." With the 12" side of the black paper toward them, children glue the light roughly at center top of page.
- c. Let children tear the people who walked in darkness from the other colors and glue them onto black background. The younger or less adept children may be able to manage making only one person; encourage whoever seems able to fill the space with another person (or two).
- d. When children are finished gluing, teacher can write the text on the black background with gold or silver pen.

IV. Teaching Aids

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 4, "The Lord Comes into the World" (Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-23).

B. *True Christian Religion* 81-109 (The Lord the Redeemer).



The Lord's Most Wonderful Promise
Isaiah 9:6-7