

**Lesson #1-10*****The Savior Is Coming***

Isaiah 42:1-9

**Key Verse:**

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.”

Isaiah 42:1

**The Point:**

God announces the promise of a savior, who will bring hope to all.

**Advent Theme (December 2—December 23)**

Faith in God's Promises

***What Kind of Messiah?***

*Use a responsive reading to reflect on the text.*

*You will need:*

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet

*Preparation:*

1. Print a copy of the activity sheet for each participant.

*Instructions:*

1. **Our Bible reading today comes from the prophet Isaiah. He wanted the people of Israel to realize what kind of Messiah God would send to them, so that they would recognize him when he came.**
2. **Let's hear the story from the Bible.** Have a participant read today's text.
3. **Now let's read it together in a different way.** Divide the group into Choir A and Choir B. Have them read the activity sheet.
4. **Choir A represented the thoughts of some of the people of Israel. What is it they wanted God to do?** [*To rescue them, to punish or destroy their enemies, etc.*] **It makes sense that some people would feel that way. They were in a lot of pain. When we are in pain we sometimes feel like hurting someone else. When have you felt this way?** Allow the participants a chance to share.
5. **Choir B represents the words of the prophet Isaiah. Which parts of the Choir B response did you particularly like?** Allow participants a chance to share. **Close your eyes and try to picture the Messiah that Choir A was calling for. What do you see?** Pause for a few seconds. **Now think of the Messiah described in Choir B's response. What do you see now?** Allow students to share their impressions of both Messiah images. **Which of these images is like the life of Jesus?**

# *What Kind of Messiah?*

*Use a responsive reading to reflect on the text.*

- Choir A: Long have we waited for God to deliver us.
- Choir B: God has heard our prayers, and will send us the Messiah.
- Choir A: Will the Messiah come with a great army to destroy our enemy?
- Choir B: The Messiah will be gentle and quiet, not bruising a single blade of grass.
- Choir A: Will the Messiah come with strength and power to rule our enemies?
- Choir B: The Messiah will be a servant, offering compassion and healing for those who hurt.
- Choir A: Will the Messiah shout against our enemy in the streets?
- Choir B: The Messiah will speak gently and peaceably, bringing God's love.
- Choir A: Will the Messiah blind our enemies, so we can destroy them?
- Choir B: The Messiah will give sight to the blind.
- Choir A: Will the Messiah throw our enemies into a pit from which they can never escape?
- Choir B: The Messiah will release those who are in prison, and grant them freedom.
- Choir A: Will the Messiah lift Israel up over other nations, showing the world that we are the best?
- Choir B: The Messiah will make Israel a light, so that all nations will find their way to God.
- Choir A: But how will the Messiah deliver us if he does not destroy our enemy?
- Choir B: By turning your enemy into your brother and sister, by creating one family. That is the way of this Messiah, the anointed one.
- ALL: Anoint us, too, O God, that we might bring your love and healing to our world. Amen.