

## Aim of lesson

To consider the prophecies in Isaiah about the first coming of the Lord Jesus.

## Bible background

Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-5; 52:13-15; 53; 61:1-2.

## Outline of lesson

### The one who would come

The object of this lesson is for the class to consider five sections of the prophecy of Isaiah which speak of the Messiah.

The five sections are listed in the Bible Background. Chapter 53 with the last few verses of chapter 52 form the main section. By considering each of these sections the class should build up the picture of what the Christ would be like – not a physical picture of him, but a picture of his character and work. For this reason the workbook has a shadowy picture of a man built from some verses from the passages being studied.

### Building up the picture

As the students look in turn at the references, they should:

- Find the quotation from that section in the workbook.
- Fill in the missing words to make the picture more complete.
- Discuss what the reference tells us about the coming Messiah.

If the class are using the Authorised Version of the Bible, it would be helpful to have a copy of the N.I.V. to refer to for this lesson. The white shape of a man in the workbook is for the class to fill with the ideas gained from the references, in their own words. For example: Christ would be born miraculously by virgin birth. He would be called 'God with us'. This could be done as each passage is first considered or each section could be returned to in order to put it into the class' own words after the shadow picture is completed.

### Fulfilment

The class could look at the following verses to see the way in which Christ fulfilled all these prophecies in Isaiah. They should identify which are seen to be fulfilled in each reference. If you prefer, the white outline of a man could be filled with the New Testament references which show the fulfilment of the words of Isaiah. You may like to refer to some or all of the following:

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:26-35
- Luke 4:14-22
- Matthew 26:36-39, 63-68
- Matthew 27:44, 57-60
- Hebrews 4:14-15
- Luke 24:25-27
- Luke 24:1-6
- Philippians 2:8-11
- Romans 8:3.

### What did this mean to Isaiah?

Ask the class to consider what this message of a coming Saviour would mean to Isaiah. Encourage them to see that God was prepared to rescue his people from the wickedness and resultant suffering which was seen in Lesson 51 in the song of the vineyard. Isaiah must have been glad to be able to look forward to God's salvation, but he must have wondered at the words of suffering and rejection in chapter 53.

## Digging deeper

### Hezekiah's passover

By looking at Hezekiah's celebration of the passover we can learn that God is happy when we try to please him and do the best we can, and forgives our inadequacies.

## Relevance to our lives

It would be helpful to discuss with the class the contrasting pictures of the suffering servant of Isaiah's prophecy and the street-wise, tough image portrayed to young people on television, in books, magazines and films. Encourage them to see that the worldly view of a hero is very far removed from God's view of the perfect man – the one we should look up to. Have them think of practical ways in which we can be servants like him in today's world.

## Prayer

The class could write a prayer about learning to be a servant in the different situations of their lives – at home, at school, with friends etc.

## **Other suggestions for activities**

- The class could continue the newspaper of the time of Isaiah and include articles on what the prophet said would happen in the future.
- The class could look at Acts 8:26-40 and write what they think Philip might have said to explain Isaiah 53 to the Ethiopian in verse 35.
- You may like to ask the class to do a survey during the week in preparation for next week's lesson. They could ask family and friends which problems in the world today they consider the most serious.