God’s Big Story: The Rescuer is Coming!

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| scripture focus |
| Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-9; 53:1-12 |

big picture

As the Israelites waited for redemption and rescue, God sent them prophets – to both turn them back to choices that brought life, and to give them clues about the Rescuer to come, the Messiah who would redeem and restore Israel. Isaiah was one of those prophets. Even before the Israelites were exiled, Isaiah began telling them about the Rescuer to come, a king from David’s line who would shine light into their darkness, rule with righteousness, bring peace and justice, and suffer in their place. Some of these prophecies were what the Israelites expected from a ruler and rescuer, and some were unexpected and hard to understand. The Messiah to come would shatter expectations for a national Rescuer, and the light and life he brought would stretch beyond Israel to accompany the entire creation.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* p.144-151 (“Operation No More Tears!”)*Psalms for Young Children:*Psalms 47, 98, 100, 117, 136 | Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-9; 53:1-12Psalms 40, 102, 110, 117, 126 |
| discuss/ ask | What are some of the clues that Isaiah gives us about the Rescuer who is to come? What will that Rescuer be like? What will he do?In what ways to do think the Rescuer to come might be different from what the Israelite people expect a Rescuer to be like?Can you think of a time when what you received was different from what you expected, but turned out to be even better?Isaiah said that the people who walked in darkness had seen a great light. How were the people of Israel walking in darkness? What made it dark for them? How do you think the Rescuer to come would be like a light for them?What are ways that you experience darkness in your life? Where do you need light? |
| do together | Get ready for Advent by making an advent wreath together or preparing one you already have. Collect greenery and pinecones to decorate. Talk about waiting for the Rescuer to come, as well as what you are waiting for.Turn out the lights and stumble about in darkness. Then recite together, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great LIGHT!” and have a child turn the light on (or maybe have an adult strike a match).Begin to learn and sing together the song, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” |