

# MESSAGES FROM GOD

**Bible Basis:** Isaiah 3:1–13; 14:1–5; 48:8–9

**Bible Verse:** “The Lord says to his servant, ‘... When it is time to save you, I will help you. I will keep you safe.’” —Isaiah 49:8, NIV

**Bible Point:** God doesn’t give up on his people. God won’t give up on me.

**Resource:** *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 16: “Messages from God”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff you need:** chalkboard, whiteboard, or butcher paper and markers

Ask children to sit on the floor.

Say, “**Messages come to people in many different ways. Let’s say I want to send you a message. How could I do that?**”

As children give you answers, draw those items on the board or butcher paper. (Or recruit someone who is good at drawing to do it.) Give suggestions, such as paper, pencils, pens, a letter, phone, bulletin board, blimp, megaphone, microphone, people talking, e-mail on a computer, or cell phone.

Ask:

- What is the best way to tell someone that you want them to come to your birthday party?
- What is the best way to thank someone for a present?

Say, “**There are a lot of great ways for us to send messages to each other. God sends messages, too. In Bible days, he sent his messages through prophets. A prophet is a person whose job it is to give people messages from God. Let’s read a story about one of God’s prophets.**”

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Before class, write each of the six messages below on a separate slip of paper. Number the slips. Give them to six different children. Note which child has which number so you can call their names in order. Tell them to bring the paper to you as a messenger when you call their names. Depending on the number of children in your class, you may want to read the story a few times so each child gets a turn being a messenger.

First, read aloud Chapter 16, “Messages from God,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Say, **"God's people were doing whatever they wanted to do. God did not like that. Isaiah was a prophet. He gave people messages from God. Here is a message God sent them."**

Choose the child who has the first message and read it to the class.

**1. Shape up and start obeying God like you're supposed to.**

Say, **"Do you think God's people listened to Isaiah? God's people did not listen to Isaiah. They did not listen to God. So, God sent them another message through Isaiah."**

Choose the child who has the second message and read it to the class.

**2. Listen to what God says and ask for forgiveness.**

Say, **"Do you think God's people listened to Isaiah? God's people did not listen to Isaiah. They did not listen to God. So, God sent them another message through Isaiah."**

Choose the child who has the third message and read it to the class.

**3. After bad things happen to you, you will learn to listen to God. Then God will let you go back home.**

Say, **"Do you think God's people listened to Isaiah? God's people did not listen to Isaiah. They did not listen to God. So, God sent them another message through Isaiah."**

Choose the child who has the fourth message and read it to the class.

**4. After bad things happen to you, you will listen to God. Then it will be time for God to answer your prayers.**

Say, **"Do you think God's people listened to Isaiah? God's people did not listen to Isaiah. They did not listen to God. So God sent them another message through Isaiah. Isaiah trusted God, and God let him tell God's people a lot about the coming Messiah. What is a Messiah? The Messiah is Jesus—God's Son! Isaiah told the people that someday God would send his Son, Jesus, to Earth as a baby. What a message!"**

Choose the child who has the fifth message and read it to the class.

**5. God will send his Son to Earth. He will be the Messiah.**

Say, **"That is such an amazing message! Do you think God's people listened to Isaiah this time? God's people did not listen to Isaiah. They did not listen to God. So God sent them another message through Isaiah about the Messiah."**

Choose the child who has the sixth message and read it to the class.

**6. You have not obeyed me or believed me, but the Messiah will take the punishment instead of you.**

Say, “Do you think God’s people listened to Isaiah? You won’t be surprised to hear that even with this message they did not listen to God. But Isaiah’s messages from God were written down in the Bible, and we can see that everything Isaiah said is true.”

After the Bible story, ask:

- Who told God’s people that bad things were going to happen? (*Isaiah*)
- Who did God promise to send to save them? (*the Messiah*)

Say, “God doesn’t give up on his people, and God won’t give up on you.”

Pray, thanking God that he never gives up on his people.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

#### Option 1: Messages from God

**Stuff you need:** Messages from God Activity Cards, a large jar, bucket, or plastic bin full of beans, rice, or pasta

**Preparation:** Photocopy the Messages from God Activity Cards so each child has 1 card. Cut the cards apart, fold them in half, and mix them into your bucket of beans, rice, or pasta.

Say, “Back in Isaiah’s time, God used prophets to give people his messages. Today we have the Bible. God gives us his messages in the Bible—all we have to do is open it and read it. There are lots of messages from God in this bucket. When I call on you, come up and dig through the bucket, and pull out a message to you from God. I will read it to you.”

Call children up, one by one, and let them choose a message from the bucket. Then read the messages to the group. Gather the messages as you read them, because you will need them if you choose to do Option 2: Musical Messages.

#### Option 2: Musical Messages

**Stuff you need:** a chair for each child, music player, preschool music, Messages from God Activity Cards

Play a modified game of “Musical Chairs”. No one gets “out” so don’t take out any chairs. Set up chairs back to back, as in playing regular “Musical Chairs”. Play the music. The children walk around the chairs, and when you stop the music, all the children find a chair and quickly sit down. When they are seated, read one of the Messages from God Activity Cards. Do this for several rounds.

### Option 3: The Messiah Will Come!

**Stuff you need:** egg carton cut into individual cups, Easter grass, play dough that will dry nicely, such as Model Magic

**Preparation:** Cut egg cartons apart into individual cups, enough for each child to have 1 cup.

Say, “**God told Isaiah to tell the people that he would send a Messiah. Do you remember who that Messiah was? It was Jesus! Let’s make a craft to keep in our rooms and remind us that Isaiah told people Jesus was coming, hundreds of years before he was born!**”

Have children put a little Easter grass into an egg carton cup—this is a manger. Have the children make a small dough ball and a medium oval, then stick them together. This is to symbolize the baby Jesus. Put the clay symbol of baby Jesus into the manger.

### Option 4: Isaiah Talks

**Stuff you need:** Isaiah Talks Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. Look at the picture together. Color Isaiah. Have them take the picture home and share the story of Isaiah with their family.

### Option 5: Watercolors

**Stuff you need:** white card stock or construction paper, watercolor paints, small paintbrushes, sturdy cups for water, a pitcher of clean water, an empty pitcher for dirty water, paper towels

Have children paint designs, swirls, and pictures. While they paint, remind them that God doesn’t give up on his people, and God won’t give up on them. He loves them and gives them the gift of creativity to do things like paint pictures.

## STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 16*. Say, “**The front of this card will remind you that God did not give up on his people. Show your parents the back and tell them that God will not give up on you, either.**” Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.