

# Peace on Earth

Isaiah 11:1-9

## **MEMORY VERSE**

ISAIAH 11:1

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Several sheets of white copy paper.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **If You Love Jesus, Please Smile!**

You'll have a class full of giggles with this game. Have your children sit in a circle. Choose a volunteer to be “It.” It must go around the circle and say to each child, “If you love Jesus, please smile.” “It” can do anything to get a child to smile as long as it is appropriate and he or she doesn't touch the child (no tickling). The players must resist smiling and say, “I really love Jesus, but I just can't smile.” If a smile is cracked, the smiling player becomes “It.” You can be the judge for the game.

In today's lesson, we will be learning about the time when Jesus will come to rule and reign on this earth. No one can resist smiling in that day.

## **LESSON TIME!**

Israel was going to go through some very difficult times because of their disobedience. Though God would judge Israel, presently; He would not cast them away forever. Isaiah's prophecies shine the light of hope on Israel's present dark days, as he looks forward to the glorious far-off day—the day that Jesus Christ will rule and reign.

Sometimes, the situations and difficulties we experience would cause us to despair; sometimes, the condition of the world around us would cause us to despair. Yet, those of us who believe in Jesus Christ can look beyond our present circumstances and beyond the world's miserable condition and embrace a hope that causes us to rejoice. Jesus will be returning one day as the Prince of Peace. He will establish His kingdom here on this earth. **One day, Jesus will rule and reign.**

### ISAIAH 11:1-3

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of  
the fear of the LORD.

His delight is in the fear of the LORD,  
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,  
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

In the previous chapter of Isaiah, the ax cuts down the mighty trees and the forests. The mighty trees and forests refer to the foreign soldiers and leaders or the nations of this world. God's kingdom will not fall though, for His kingdom will arise by a shoot coming up from the stem (or stump) of Jesse (King David's father) and a branch springing forth from the roots. The shoot and the branch picture the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The stem or stump is a picture of the nation Israel, cut back, but not dead. Israel was like the stump of a fallen tree, for they no longer served God; yet God from the remaining root of the fallen tree would bring forth the Messiah.

This rod (or shoot) speaks to us of the humble beginning of the Messiah. Yet the Messiah will spring up, as a tree whose leaves form a crown and be full of fruit. One day, glorified, He will rule and reign. **One day, Jesus will rule and reign.**

Verse 2 tells us, “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.” Jesus was empowered (equipped and enabled) by the Holy Spirit with gifts for the work of His ministry. He was given...

Wisdom: The power of discerning the nature of something through their appearance.

Understanding: the power of discerning the differences of things and what they mean.

Counsel: the gift of forming the right knowledge or opinion about something.

The Fear of the Lord: fear absorbed in reverence. To fear the Lord is to respond to Him in awe, trust, obedience, and worship.

All of these gifts or qualities describe Jesus. He continually pleased the Father in all He did. Verse 3 says that His “delight” will be in the fear of the LORD. Jesus said, “My food and drink is to do the will of my Father.” His life would be completely about serving the Lord and nothing else.

What an example we have in Jesus! How do we live our lives? Are you living to please God or just yourself? We were created to bring pleasure to God.

As we read verse 3, what a comfort to know Jesus will not judge like an ordinary judge, but with righteousness and impartiality. He does not judge by outward appearances, but according to the relation of the heart to God. **One day Jesus will rule and reign.**

## ISAIAH 11:4-5

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Those that are poor and needy and those that humble and meek will flourish in His justice. The wicked will experience the full force of His righteous judgment upon their sins. The very word of His mouth is a rod, which shatters in pieces, and the breath of His lips is sufficient to destroy. Righteousness and faithfulness will characterize Jesus' glorious reign! **One day, Jesus will rule and reign.**

## Follow God's Word!

Have you ever had a time when you were lost? Allow anyone in your class to share about such a time. Being lost can be scary. It is important that we follow directions so that we do not get lost. It is also important that we have good directions to keep us from getting lost. In this game, we will be giving and following directions.

Set up a small obstacle course for the children to go through using chairs, desks or other items. Form pairs and ask the children to stand on one side of the room. Ask them to face their partner. Each pair should be standing so that one has their back to the opposite side of the room. That partner will walk backwards through the obstacle course while the other partner gives directions on the best way to do it.

Tell the children that their goal is to walk around the obstacles to get to the other side of the room. The backward walkers must listen carefully to their partners as they are guided around the obstacles. When all pairs have reached the opposite side of the room, switch roles so everyone has a chance to experience both giving and following directions. After the children help reposition the chairs, ask them to sit in a circle. Ask the children, "What was it like to listen to directions and try to follow them? What was it like to give directions?" Give them an opportunity to respond and talk about the importance of following the Bible and what the Lord wants us to do.

### ISAIAH 11:6-9

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

Looking into the glorious righteous kingdom the Messiah will set up, Isaiah paints a beautiful picture for us. The wolf and lamb will be perfectly reconciled. The leopard will let the kid lie down beside it. The lion, the calf, and stalled ox will be together posing no threat to each other. The cow and bear graze together, while their babies lie side by side in the pasture. The lion will be content to eat straw. The snake will become harmless and children will play with it. As the earth becomes full of the knowledge of God, we see the fellowship of His love among all of His creatures. Peace and harmony will prevail. The wild animals will become tame and dwell peaceably with mankind. Only the reign of God can accomplish such peace.

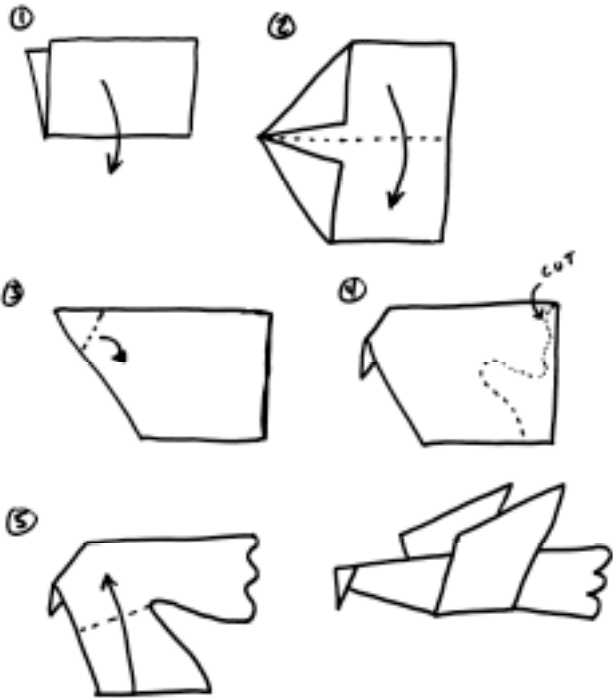
What a blessed future is laid up for us who believe in Jesus Christ. When the things of this world seem rather difficult to bear, we can look forward to the glorious hope of His coming kingdom. **One day, Jesus will rule and reign.**

## Paper Doves

Hand each child a piece of white copy paper. Use the diagrams below and demonstrate how to make the doves for your class (you may want to practice at home).

When the doves are finished, let the children “fly” them around the room. Then have the children form a circle. Explain to the children that doves represent peace; they also represent the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent us a special helper, the Holy Spirit, to help us to serve Him. He also gives us peace. Peace is a characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit which is love. Allow the class to share different ways that the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

In today’s lesson, we learned that Jesus is the Prince of Peace; one day when He rules and reigns, He will bring peace on earth.



## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that one day Jesus will rule and reign. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.