

A Song of Thanksgiving

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 12

MAIN POINT: We are thankful because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Picture the reality of your salvation: Imagine standing as a defendant in a courtroom. You've been justly found guilty of a crime and the penalty is death. But rather than ordering law enforcement to lead you away to be executed, the judge gets up and takes your place. He takes your punishment upon himself, declaring your innocence and allowing you to walk free. How would you respond?

This is essentially what Jesus does for sinners who trust in Him. God is the judge, and rather than sentencing us to death like we deserve, the Father sent His Son to take our place. That is mercy and grace. So how should we respond?

Look at how Moses and the Israelites responded when God rescued them from Egypt and led them across the Red Sea. Exodus 15 describes their song. They praise the Lord and tell what He has done for them. This same attitude of thankfulness—the proper response to the good news of the gospel—is described in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah had a vision of God's grace toward sinners, and he describes in Isaiah 12 the song we will sing to the Lord. We will praise God for His mercy and compassion (Isa. 12:1-2), thank Him for keeping His promise to save us (vv. 3-4), and tell of His glory and greatness among the nations (vv. 5-6).

Once we experience salvation, we don't sit back and cruise through the Christian life. Salvation is a call to action. Out of thankfulness for the Lord, we can love others like Jesus (1 John 4:10-12) and share with the world the good news of the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20; John 14:15). Guide kids to recognize that every good gift comes from God (Jas. 1:17), and God's greatest gift to us is His own Son, Jesus. With hearts of gratitude, praise and worship the Lord together.



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

A Song of Thanksgiving

Isaiah 12

- **Call for response:**

After each line of praise, call for kids to echo the words. Repeat once or twice as time allows.

- **Sing out the story:**

Raise your voice and speak joyfully and sincerely as you tell Isaiah's words of praise.

Isaiah the prophet told God's message to the people of Judah. He told them about a time in the future—the Day of the Lord—when God will judge the earth and bless His people.

What will that day be like? **Isaiah said that it will be a happy day! God will rescue His people from sin. God's people will sing and thank Him.**

Isaiah said, "On that day, you will say:

'I will praise You, Lord!

You were angry with me, but You did not stay angry.

You have comforted me.

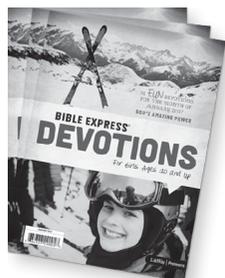
Yes, God is the One who saves me.

I will trust Him and not be afraid.

The Lord gives me strength and keeps me safe.'

"God will save His people, and you will have joy. You will sing: 'Praise the Lord! Make His name famous! Tell everyone what He has done. Sing to the Lord. He has done glorious things. Tell everyone in the world about Him. People of Zion, shout and sing! The Holy One of Israel is with you, and He is great!'"

Christ Connection: Isaiah looked forward to the day when God's words would come true—God would bless His people, and they would be thankful and tell everyone about Him. By sending His Son, God kept His promise to save people from sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Those who trust in Him rejoice and are saved.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce the STORY

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Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to tell about the last time they told someone thank you. Why did they say thanks? How do kids show thanks to others?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Isaiah 12 Word Search” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Isaiah 12 Word Search” on the activity page.

SAY • These words are all found in today’s Bible story.

When you hear the story, listen closely to see if you can find them.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Honor time

Provide paper and colored pencils or crayons. Prompt kids to draw pictures of someone who is important to them. Guide them to list things that person has done. Then invite volunteers to share their drawings and lists.

SAY • Thank you for sharing! When we tell about the wonderful things someone has done, we bring that

LOW PREP

- paper
- colored pencils or crayons

person honor. Honor is showing respect and giving credit or recognition. Today we are going to hear a Bible story that comes from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born, and he told about a day when people will tell what God has done.

OPTION 2: Gift wrap challenge

Choose a volunteer to be gift-wrapped by his friends. Guide the remaining kids to form a circle around the volunteer. Allow the group to wrap the kid using wrapping paper, tape, and bows.

- wrapping paper
- tape
- child scissors
- gift bows

Caution kids against covering the volunteer's face or putting sticky tape or bows in his hair.

When kids finish, invite them to talk about favorite gifts they have given or received.

SAY • Giving and receiving gifts is fun. God gives us special gifts too. In fact, the Bible says that every good gift comes from God. [*See Jas. 2:19.*] He gives us families and friends. He gives us the things we need. Best of all, He gives us the gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus. This gift will last forever and ever.

So, what do you say when someone gives you a gift? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Have you ever said thank-you to God? Think about that as we hear today's Bible story.

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters carrying a Bible. Leader is wearing a hat labeled Go and Tell!]

LEADER • Hi! I am so glad you are here. We are wrapping up our campaign called [*point to hat*] “Go and Tell!”

It’s all about obeying Jesus’ command to go and tell others the gospel—the good news that God sent Jesus to rescue people from sin. I am really excited for you to hear today’s Bible story. It’s about wanting to tell the whole world what Jesus has done just because we are so thankful for God’s gift of salvation.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Now, does anyone remember our big picture question and answer for this campaign? [*Allow responses.*] Let’s say it together: ***What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.***

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle. Point to previous Bible stories as you review the unit.

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

LEADER • We have been hearing stories about things Jesus did after He rose from the dead.

First, **Jesus appeared to His disciples**. Then He appeared to Thomas. **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas**, and Thomas believed. Later, Jesus met with His disciples by the Sea of Galilee. **Jesus forgave Peter and gave him a mission. Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission**, to go and tell others about Him. After all of this, **Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud**.

Our Bible story today comes from the Book of Isaiah. You might remember that Isaiah was a prophet in the Old Testament. He lived about 700 years before Jesus was born. [*Point to the section labeled “Prophets and Kings” on the timeline or big story circle.*] God gave His people a message through the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah talked about the promised Messiah, whom God would send to rescue His people. This Messiah is the reason we are thankful.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Isaiah 12. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “A Song of Thanksgiving.”

LEADER • This Bible story comes from the Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. Isaiah was a prophet. He spoke for God and gave messages to God’s people. Isaiah had a vision of the wonderful things God would do. God had a plan to rescue people from sin and

• Bibles
• “A Song of Thanksgiving” video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

death by sending the Messiah. Isaiah talked about what people will say one day when they look back at everything God did. What do you do when someone does something wonderful for you? Isaiah said that God's people will sing and thank Him! **We are thankful because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins.**

Before a person trusts in Jesus, that person is God's enemy. God is right to be angry because we sin. But God does not stay angry. He comforts those who trust in Jesus, and He saves them from sin and death. We can trust in Him and not be afraid. God gives us strength and keeps us safe. He is all we need.

Did you know that Moses sang a song to God after God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt? [*Read Ex. 15:2 aloud.*] God had done something great for the Israelites, and Moses responded with a song. Isaiah's words are about the song we will sing because God has done something great for us! He rescued us from slavery to sin.

Christ connection

LEADER • Isaiah looked forward to the day when God's words would come true—God would bless His people, and they would be thankful and tell everyone about Him. By sending His Son, God kept His promise to save people from sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Those who trust in Him rejoice and are saved.

God's greatest gift to us is His own Son, Jesus. We have joy because of Jesus. When we are thankful, we can praise and worship the Lord together.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

- Key Passage Poster
- “On the Third Day” song

LEADER • Our key passage reminds us of what is most important: the gospel. We can tell people about the stories in the Old Testament, and the psalms written by David, and how Paul said believers should live—but the most important thing that people need to hear is the good news that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Lead boys and girls in singing “On the Third Day.”

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Isaiah wrote about how we will praise and thank God because we have joy in Jesus. Watch this video about certain situations and how kids react.

- “Unit 27, Session 6” discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 27, Session 6” discussion starter video.

Guide kids to discuss these questions:

- Why did these kids react like they did?
- What reason do we have to be thankful to God?
- What reason do we have to celebrate?

LEADER • In response to the good news of what Jesus has done for us, we can thank God and tell others all over the world about His great love. We can show our thankfulness to God by worshipping Him, praying, and being generous and loving others.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • We can show thanks to God by singing to Him. He has done glorious things! Sing together “The Glory.”

- “The Glory” song

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story. Pray using words to reflect the song of thanks in Isaiah 12.

LEADER • I will praise You, Lord! You were angry because of my sin, but You did not stay angry. You have comforted me. You showed Your love by sending Your Son. I will trust You and not be afraid. I will show my love and trust by sharing the gospel with others and living a life that honors You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply the STORY

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Before you show the key passage poster, remind kids that the key passage is 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Ask for volunteers who have memorized the key passage to recite it aloud. Then show the key passage poster and lead everyone to say the verses together.

Choose a kid to be the leader and read a few words of the key passage. He can read it plainly or make up a rhythm or tune. The rest of the group should echo his words. Then he'll say a few more words, pause while kids echo, and repeat until he finishes the verse. As time allows, choose new volunteers to take the leader role.

SAY • In these words, Paul tells us the message of the gospel. You can remember these three important events about what Jesus has done: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day—just like the Scriptures said would happen. This is the gospel, the good news for sinners!

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Main Point Poster

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find the Book of Isaiah. Encourage kids to use the table of contents. Ask kids

what division of the Bible the Book of Isaiah is in. (*Major Prophets*)

Challenge kids to name the five books of the Major Prophets. (*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel*) Explain that Isaiah was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Reread the bolded portion of the Bible story script, or invite kids to read aloud Isaiah 12:1-6 from the Bible. Then guide kids to answer or discuss the following:

1. What are some ways we can show thankfulness to God?
2. What reasons do we have to be thankful to God?
3. Why do you think we will be happy when Jesus returns?

SAY • The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the day when God’s words would come true, when God would bless His people and they would be thankful and tell everyone about Him. God kept His promise to send a Savior—His own Son, Jesus.

Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue people from sin. **We are thankful because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins.** Because we are thankful, we should tell others what God has done for sinners.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Thankfulness game

Print and cut apart the word clues. Place them in a paper bag. Then print a game card page for each kid. Distribute markers and instruct kids to fill in their cards with the words from the list.

Kids may arrange the words however they wish. Then

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.



- “Thankfulness Game Card” printable
- markers
- paper bag

pull a word clue from the bag and read it aloud. Kids should use their markers to outline the answer on their cards. Pull clues until a kid circles five in a row and calls out, “Thank you!” Guide her to read the answers back to you. Check them against the clues you’ve drawn.

When a player gets five in a row, you may continue or call for kids to clear their cards and begin again.

SAY • Isaiah 12 reminds us to be thankful. God’s Word says in many places that we should be thankful to God. God is good! **We are thankful because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins.**

OPTION 2: Thankfulness wall quilt

Before the session, cut two 8-inch construction paper squares for each kid. Provide various colors. Give kids the following instructions:

1. Rotate one square on top of the other and glue it in place, positioning a diamond shape inside the square.
2. Use markers to draw pictures of things or people for which you are thankful.
3. Write words of thanks to God around the edges.

Refer to Isaiah 12 for words or phrases to thank God.

As kids finish, invite them to tape their drawings together on a focal wall to form a thankfulness quilt.

Allow volunteers to present their drawings to the rest of the group before displaying them on the wall.

SAY • These are great illustrations of gifts God has given to us. I am most thankful for God’s greatest gift—His Son, Jesus. **We are thankful because Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins.** That is the best gift ever.

- construction paper
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- tape

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

While kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then lead kids in prayer. Praise God because He is good. Echo the words of Isaiah and thank Him for doing glorious things and for having compassion on His people.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Giving Thanks" on the activity page. Encourage kids to look up each Scripture reference and practice giving thanks to God by copying the verses or writing them in their own words.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Giving Thanks" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.