

SESSION 8

MEETING JESUS

SESSION AIMS

To think about the coming of Jesus as a baby and reflect on its significance in light of the overview of the Old Testament covered so far.

To understand how the life of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah.

BIBLE REFERENCE

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

GAME: Pictionary

Divide the young people into small groups, and give each group some paper and pens. Members of the group will take it in turns to draw a word you give them while the rest of the group guess what it is.

Get each group to choose one member to come to you to hear the first word. They return to their group and draw it. When someone guesses correctly, they come to you to be told the next word. Continue in this manner until a group has successfully guessed all the words on the list.

List of words: angel, baby, star, scroll, miracle, love, choice

See if any of the young people can spot a common theme in the words. They are all connected with the life of Jesus. Encourage them to watch out for these things being mentioned in today's video.

WEEK 7 RECAP

Last week we heard about the disaster that came upon the people of Israel and the people of Judah. They weren't following God's ways and were warned that if they didn't turn and follow God again, the Assyrians and Babylonians would come and take the people into exile... and that's exactly what happened. They didn't listen and so they were taken into captivity. But yet again, we see that God is patient, merciful, and faithful to his promises. He had promised that a Saviour, the Messiah, would come from the line of David. His name would be called Emmanuel, God with us, just as the prophets said. And so, the people of Judah returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile in Babylon and rebuilt the temple and the walls of the city.

WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?

After the last words from the prophets in the Old Testament, there was silence. For four hundred years there is no record of God speaking or of any messages from the prophets. The people were left waiting, clinging to the hope that God would send the Messiah he had promised – the one who would rescue them and put things right.

Today, we're going to move into the New Testament and think about what happened when the silence was finally broken.

WATCH THE EPISODE

GROUP WORK

Discuss: How does the Old Testament help us to understand that there was more to the Christmas story than Jesus being born as a baby?

Encourage the young people to think back to why God promised to send the Messiah – the problem of sin and the need for a Saviour.

Share examples of some of the things you know about the life of Jesus – miracles he did, people he met, his teachings etc.

Read Luke 4:16–21. How do some of the examples you have listed relate to the words Jesus quoted from Isaiah in this passage?

If you have a group that is not familiar with the life of Jesus, you could refer back to some of the examples mentioned in the video.

We've looked into who Jesus is and thought about some of the different responses he received, but a question for each of us to consider is: how do we respond to him today? Do we believe Jesus is the promised Saviour, and if so what impact does that have on how we live our lives?

Depending on your group you may want to discuss this or you may just want to encourage the young people to reflect individually.

PRAY TO CLOSE