



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

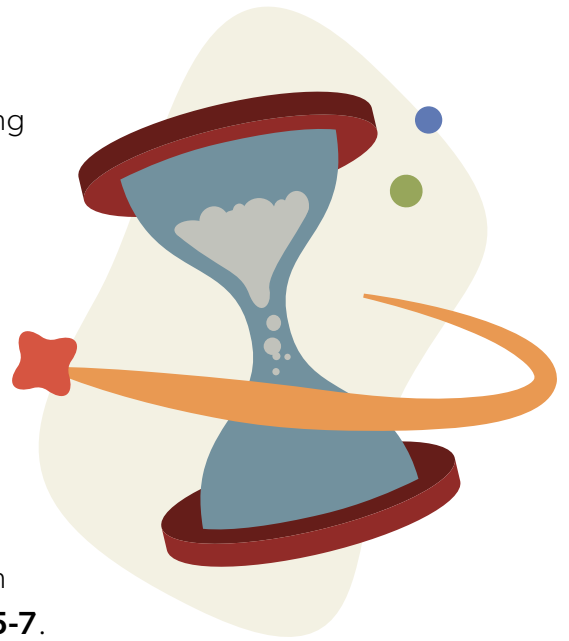
Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAD TO WAIT A REALLY LONG TIME FOR?

Sometimes we wait for simple things like a snack when we're really hungry. Sometimes waiting is exciting, like when we wait for Christmas. And sometimes it's really, really hard, like when we wait for someone we love to come home.

Despite God's great love for them, the Israelites were living in darkness. They wandered away from God and weren't following His ways. But even when they were taken from their homes and lived as captives in a faraway land, God reminded them of His special promise: a Light was coming. Let's read about it in **Isaiah chapter 42, verses 5-7.**





THUS SAYS GOD, THE LORD, WHO CREATED THE HEAVENS AND STRETCHED THEM OUT, WHO SPREAD OUT THE EARTH AND WHAT COMES FROM IT, WHO GIVES BREATH TO THE PEOPLE ON IT AND SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO WALK IN IT: "I AM THE LORD; I HAVE CALLED YOU IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, I WILL TAKE YOU BY THE HAND AND KEEP YOU; I WILL GIVE YOU AS A COVENANT FOR THE PEOPLE, A LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS, TO OPEN THE EYES THAT ARE BLIND, TO BRING OUT THE PRISONERS FROM THE DUNGEON, FROM THE PRISON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS."

ISAIAH 42:5-7

The Israelites couldn't get themselves out of their darkness, but God could. He patiently reminded them of His love. He told them when the time was right He would hold them by the hand and guide them out of the darkness. He promised to send a Light so bright It would change the world. People who only saw darkness would see light. People who were captives would be free!

The Israelites waited many hundreds of years for God's promise to be fulfilled. That is such a long, L-O-N-G time! While the people waited, God used prophets to remind His people a Light was coming to rescue them from their darkness.

People spent their entire lives waiting — and then their kids, and their grandkids, and their great-grandkids and their GREAT-great-grandkids waited for God's Light to come! They knew the Light was coming, but they didn't know when.

We must remember no matter who or what we are waiting for, God is always with us and always working in our waiting. The people of Israel had to wait for the light of Jesus. Many waited faithfully for the Light God promised them, even though they never saw Jesus come in their lifetime. Still, they believed God would do exactly what He said. So they watched and waited. **The Light of the World was coming.**



* MORE TO EXPLORE

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

ISAIAH

This week's story comes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah is called a prophetic book and was written by the prophet Isaiah. God spoke to Isaiah, and Isaiah told God's people what He said. This book includes prophecies that were fulfilled when Jesus came to Earth and even prophecies about things yet to come when God restores all things!

WHY IS JESUS DESCRIBED AS LIGHT?

Throughout Scripture, light is used to describe God. The psalmist uses this metaphor to describe Him physically (Psalm 4:6, 76:4 and 104:2), His Word (Psalm 19:8, and 119:105 and 130) and the life we find in Him (Psalm 27:1 and 56:13). Isaiah prophesied the Messiah would be light in the darkness (Isaiah 9:2, 42:6 and 49:6).

When Jesus defined Himself as light, He was telling Jews who were familiar with these Scriptures that He was God AND the promise of God come to Earth. (John 8:12)

OT-NT CONNECTION

In the New Testament, Paul compares and contrasts the difference between God opening our hearts to the light of Jesus with someone who has blinded unbelievers to the light of the Gospel. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.**

- Who is blinding the minds of unbelievers?
- Name one way you have seen the light of Jesus in your life?

READ



Grab some hot chocolate and your family and take a walk or drive through a neighborhood with Christmas lights. Read John 8:12, 1 John 1:7 and Matthew 5:14-16. Consider how Christmas lights remind us Jesus is the Light of the World. Ask the Lord to make your family a light that shines for Jesus in darkness.

HOW DO I WAIT WELL?

Waiting is really hard work! It's easy to get distracted and discouraged. The psalmist tells us in Psalm 27:14 to "wait for the Lord" and to "be strong, and let your heart take courage." Isaiah reminds us in Isaiah 40:31 that those who wait on the Lord "will renew their strength."

When we wait patiently we give God our worries. We believe He is in control of everything in our lives and He has our very best interests at heart. When we put our trust in God He gives us strength, encourages us when we are tired and helps us wait faithfully with hope for His perfect timing.

JOURNAL



Think about a time the darkness of night frightened you. How did you feel when the sun finally rose and made things light again? Now think about how Jesus brought light to a world lost in darkness. Write a poem about these thoughts.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

♥ MEMORIZE

*I WILL GIVE YOU
AS A COVENANT
FOR THE PEOPLE,
A LIGHT FOR THE
NATIONS.*

ISAIAH 42:6B

Q: WHAT DID GOD
SEND TO THOSE IN
DARKNESS?

A: A LIGHT.

SHARE

Tell your kids about a time you had to wait for something. How did you make it through that season? What did you learn? Remind them that the Lord is always with us and always working in our waiting.

WATCH



Watch this week's Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR SENDING LIGHT INTO DARKNESS AND GIVING US THE HOPE OF JESUS. AS WE WALK IN YOUR LIGHT, HELP US TO UNDERSTAND AND LISTEN TO YOUR WORD. WHEN WE NEED TO WAIT, MAY WE DO IT FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY. THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US WHILE WE WAIT. AMEN.

DECORATE

Decorate for Christmas as a family. Include lights or candles in your decor. When you turn on the Christmas lights or light a candle each evening, remind your kids that Jesus is the Light of the World and thank Him for pushing the darkness away.

FIND

This week's passage is in the book of Isaiah. Help your child find the book of Isaiah. Is it in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters does it have?

TREAT

Present your kids with a Christmas treat at the beginning of the day. Explain they will enjoy it later and remind them about it throughout the day. Give them the treat after dinner. Remind them how the Israelites waited a long time for the light of Jesus, but they waited with hope because God always does what He says.

LIGHT

Gather your family together in a cozy space of your home and light a candle to represent God's promise of Jesus. Read the Messianic prophecies of Isaiah we've studied so far (Isaiah 9:1-7 and 42:1-9) and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Consider how Israel waited on the Lord and thank Him for the promise fulfilled in Jesus.

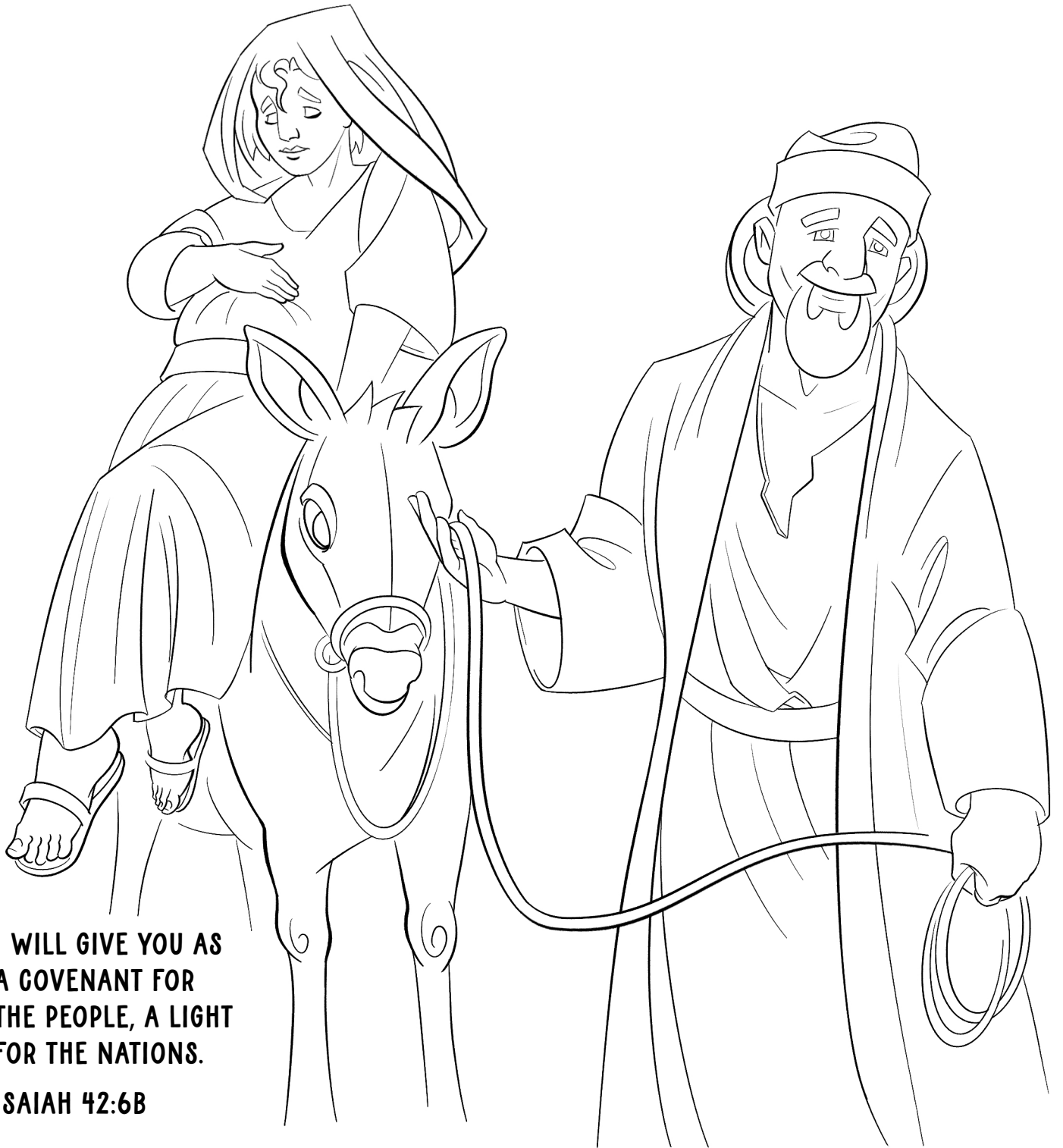


SCAN HERE TO LISTEN
WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SING

Listen to this playlist throughout this series to praise God for the Light of the World.

 **COLORING PAGE**



**I WILL GIVE YOU AS
A COVENANT FOR
THE PEOPLE, A LIGHT
FOR THE NATIONS.**

ISAIAH 42:6B

NAME: _____