

Week One

How to Mark Key Words

Circle in blue the word 'Bethlehem' and the pronoun for Bethlehem - 'you.'

Make a yellow crown around the word 'King.' Color in the crown with yellow.

Circle the word 'Messiah' in red.

Circle the word 'David' in green.

Make a purple triangle over the words 'LORD' and 'God.'

Make a red rectangle around the words 'anoint' and 'anointed.'

Make a brown cloud around the word 'sheep' and color it in with brown.

Make a blue bird above the word 'Spirit.'

Circle the words 'darkness', 'despair' and 'death' with a black pencil.

Circle the word 'light' with a yellow pencil and color in the circle with orange.

Put a red cross over the words 'Jesus', 'child', and 'baby' and the pronouns like 'him' and 'he.'

Make orange angel wings around the words 'angel' and 'Gabriel.'

Circle in brown the word 'John,' and pronouns like 'he' and 'him.'

Put a pink heart shape around the word 'Mary' and pronouns like 'she' and 'her.'

Make a green rectangle around the word 'believed' and color it in with yellow.

Put a blue rectangle over the words 'mercy' and 'merciful' and color the rectangle in with green.

Circle the word 'Savior' in red.

If you don't have colored pencils or pens, you can create different shapes and draw them over the words or use highlighters of different colors to create your own ways to mark the key words.

The Prophecy Candle - Week One

Sunday, November 29 - Light one candle, pray, and say the key verse before starting. If you are using violet and pink candles, start with a violet candle for weeks one and two.

We are on an exciting adventure together to learn all we can about why we celebrate Christmas. We will start with what the prophets in the Old Testament of the Bible said about Jesus the Messiah. Prophets were men and women who spoke the Word of God to the people. The Old Testament has many places where God told his special people many things about when and where and why the Messiah was going to come.

Micah was a man of God who lived about 700 years before Jesus was born. Here is what God told him to write in his book, called Micah, in the Bible.

Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.

In the New Testament it says that people knew much about what would happen at the birth of Jesus because they read it in the Scriptures, or Old Testament. Here is a verse that tells us what the people knew:

John 7:42 "For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born."

In the verses from Micah 5:2 and John 7:42 mark the following words:

1. Circle in blue the words 'Bethlehem' and 'village' and the pronoun for Bethlehem - 'you.'
2. Make a yellow crown around the words 'ruler', 'one', 'royal', and 'King.' Color in the crown with yellow.
3. Circle the word 'Messiah' in red.
4. Circle the word 'David' in green.

God told Micah that Jesus would be born in a specific village in Judah in the land of Israel.

What was the name of the village? _____

Why do you think God gave Micah this information long before Jesus was born? _____

What other king was also born in that village? _____

From what royal line would the Messiah come? _____

Talk Together: If you had lived in Bethlehem, would you have felt special to live in the town written about in the Scriptures as the place where the Messiah would be born? Does God use small people or small families, or small towns in his plans to bring people the message of Jesus? Can Jesus use you to tell others about his birth?

Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday, November 30, December 1 and 2

We will now study a story from the Old Testament that happened about 1000 years before Jesus was born. The Old Testament is full of interesting events that tell us about the history of our world, but the main theme of the Old Testament is our need for a Savior and the coming of the Messiah. The word Messiah literally means 'anointed one' and in the New Testament the word Christ literally means 'anointed.' Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, the Son of God.

Read the following story about how Samuel anoints David from Bethlehem as King over Israel. Yesterday we read that Jesus would be born into the royal family of David.

1 Samuel 16:1- 13

1 Finally, the LORD said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel. Now fill your horn with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my new king."

2 But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." "Take a heifer with you," the LORD replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD.

3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."

4 So Samuel did as the LORD instructed him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the leaders of the town became afraid. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"

5 "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them, too.

6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the LORD's anointed!"

7 But the LORD said to Samuel,

"Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him.

The LORD doesn't make decisions the way you do!

People judge by outward appearance,

but the LORD looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."

8 Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the LORD has chosen."

9 Next Jesse summoned Shammah, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the LORD has chosen."

10 In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

11 Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

12 So Jesse sent for him. He was ruddy and handsome, with pleasant eyes. And the LORD said, "This is the one; anoint him."

13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the olive oil he had brought and poured it on David's head. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

You have 3 days to do this assignment. Read the story one time for each color you mark. This means you will read the story 7 times. You may want to do 3 colors on the first day and 4 colors the second day, and then answer the questions the third day.

1. Make a purple triangle over the word 'LORD' and the pronoun 'I,' 'my,' and 'me' where it refers to the LORD.
2. Make a yellow crown around the word 'king.' Color in the crown with yellow.
3. Circle the word 'Bethlehem' in blue, and also circle the words that refer to Bethlehem - 'there' and the 'town' - in blue.
4. Make a red rectangle around the words 'anoint' and 'anointed.'
5. Make a brown cloud around the word 'sheep' and color it in with brown.
6. Circle the words 'David,' and its pronouns 'he,' 'him,' 'his,' 'he's,' 'youngest,' and 'one,' in green.
7. Make a blue bird above the word 'Spirit.'

Who is the main person in this story? His name starts with 'S.' _____

What did the LORD tell Samuel to do? (v. 1) _____

Where was Samuel to go, what village? _____

From what you learned in John 7:42 in the lesson for last Sunday on page 9.

Where was the Messiah to be born? _____

Into whose family was the Messiah to be born? _____

In 1 Samuel 16:7 the LORD tells Samuel how people judge or look at each other. How do people judge each other?

by _____

by _____

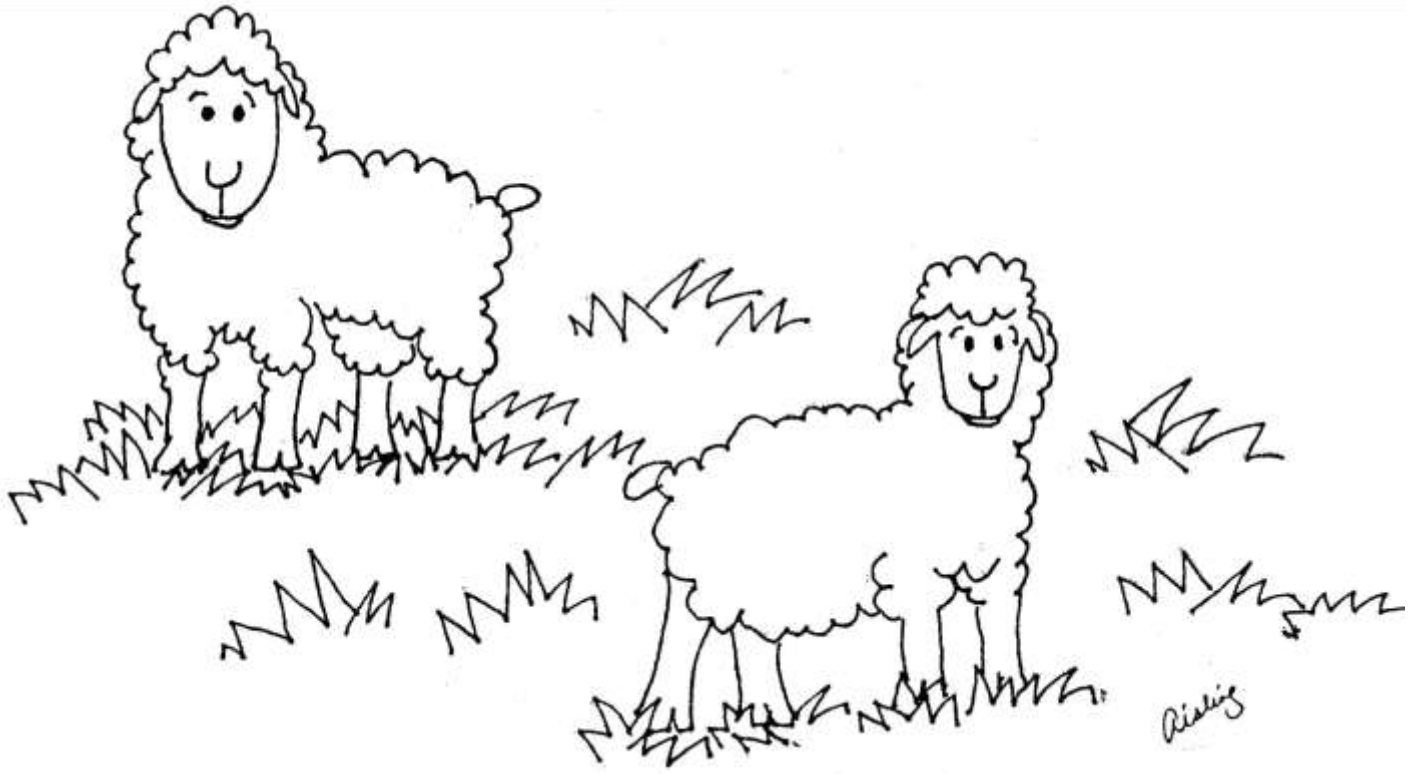
and by _____

In that same verse the LORD tells Samuel how the LORD judges people. What does the LORD look at?

a person's _____

a person's _____

Talk Together: A person's thoughts and intentions come from what is inside a person's heart. All people are born with a sinful heart. Jesus the Messiah came to give us a pure heart. When we ask Jesus to come into our heart, he comes into us and takes away our heart of sin and gives us a new heart that is like his. When we study the Bible we learn about what was in Jesus' heart, that he was always kind and loving and caring for others. Jesus wants to fill our hearts with his love so that we can always be loving to everyone. Talk about when you asked Jesus in your heart and the difference it made in your life.





Samuel Anointing David

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 3, 4 and 5

For the next 3 days we are going to look at another Old Testament passage of Scripture. It was written by a man of God who lived about 700 years before Jesus was born. His name is Isaiah and here is what God told him to write in his book, called Isaiah, in the Bible.

Isaiah 9:1-6 - Hope in the Messiah

- 1 Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will soon be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.
- 2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light—a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow.
- 3 Israel will again be great, and its people will rejoice as people rejoice at harvest time. They will shout with joy like warriors dividing the plunder.
- 4 For God will break the chains that bind his people and the whip that scourges them, just as he did when he destroyed the army of Midian with Gideon's little band.
- 5 In that day of peace, battle gear will no longer be issued. Never again will uniforms be bloodstained by war. All such equipment will be burned
- 6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this!

Remember you have 3 days to do this assignment, so take your time and just do as much as you want each day.

1. Circle the words 'darkness,' 'despair,' and 'death' with a black pencil.
2. Circle the word 'light' with a yellow pencil and color in the circle with orange.
3. Put a purple triangle over the word 'God' and the pronouns for God - 'his' and 'he,' and the name 'LORD Almighty.'
4. Put a red cross over the words 'child' and 'son' and the pronouns 'his' and 'he' in verses 6 and 7.
5. Underline the royal titles given to the child in verses 6 in blue.
6. Circle the word 'David' in green.

When we read verses like this in the Old Testament, we see that parts of them are hard to understand. This is because they talk about historical events and places that are unfamiliar to us. In verse 4 it talks about Gideon and his little band, and you may want to read more about him in Judges 6 - 8. It reminds us that God uses little things to do big jobs. Did you notice the big titles that are given to a child in verse 6?

Let's take a closer look at verses 6 & 7. Make a list of the titles that are given to this child in verse 6.

When will his ever expanding peaceful government end? (v.7) _____

How long will he rule with fairness and justice? (v.7) _____

Whose throne will he sit on? (v.7) _____

Who will guarantee this? (v.7) _____

Now look at verses 1 & 2.

What kind of a feeling will be in the world when this child will be born? _____

What will the people who walk in darkness see? _____

Our theme verse for this book is John 8:12.

Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

1. Circle the word 'light' with a yellow pencil and color in the circle with orange.
2. Circle the word 'darkness' in black.

Who is the one talked about in Isaiah 9:2, who will be a light that will shine in the darkness of the world? _____

Who is the child talked about in Isaiah 9:6 with the royal titles? _____

Talk Together: In Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is called a son and is also called God. What does this tell us about who Jesus really is? You might want to look at John 1:1-14 and John 14:5-11. Before people ask Jesus into their heart, they often feel like they are full of darkness and despair. Has Jesus brought light into your life? Talk about what this means to you.

