



PROPHETS

SESSION 1 ISAIAH



MAIN POINT

The world walks in darkness, but
God shines His light into the
world

Jesus is the light of the world

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 9v2a "The
people who
walked in
darkness have
seen a great
light."

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in
Isaiah chapters 7-9

King Ahaz in his blindness
chooses to trust the king of
Assyria rather than Yahweh.
Yahweh prophesies that
Assyria will bring trouble on
Israel and Judah, but one day
a righteous anointed King will
come.

ACTIVITIES

Game - blind man's buff

Craft - candle picture

Discussion - Light of the world

Prayer - Light of the world

LEARNING

- King Ahaz was walking in darkness, not understanding right from wrong
- People in our day walk in darkness as well
- We all need the light of the world
- Isaiah was looking forward to Jesus' first coming
- We are looking forward to Jesus' second coming



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in
Isaiah chapters 7-9

King Ahaz in his blindness
chooses to trust the king of
Assyria rather than Yahweh.

Yahweh prophesies that
Assyria will bring trouble on
Israel and Judah, but one day
a righteous anointed King will
come.

EQUIPMENT

Costume of a resident of
ancient Jerusalem (e.g.
tunic, plus a tea towel
and rope as a head
covering)

OR a puppet with Bible
era attire

INSTRUCTIONS

This story is told in two parts. The script of the resident of Jerusalem could be read out, acted out in costume or read by a puppeteer. The Bible verses can be read from a children's or youth Bible by someone who is pretending to be the voice of Isaiah. (This person could be in costume too if you like!)

After the first part of the script. Pause and ask the first question to check understanding. Then proceed to the second part of the script which includes the Bible reading and pause and ask the second question. There are more discussion questions on the activity page for you to discuss with your group after a game or other activity.



ISAIAH SCRIPT PART 1

Resident of Jerusalem:

Oh dear oh dear oh dear! We're all in a pickle! Our King, King Ahaz, King of Judah in Jerusalem has completely lost sight of where our help comes from. There are two armies marching against us right now. Syria, beastly and fierce! And Israel... Our own cousins!! Can you believe it?! They are blood brothers to us! We are all great great grandchildren of Abraham. But we are divided. Bitterly, terribly divided. Like a family argument that just won't stop spoiling things.

You'll remember King David I suppose? He was mighty and brave and trusted in Yahweh the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Moses and Joshua. He trusted Yahweh and Yahweh alone. So, God promised that one of David's children would sit on David's throne in Jerusalem and rule over the kingdom of Israel forever, so long as they keep God's commandments and don't turn away from Him.

Well, God never breaks His promises! Nope! Not ever! But people do... and people did... Solomon, David's son who reigned after him also worshiped Yahweh...and baal... and the gods of Egypt... and the gods of Assyria...and the gods of Babylon... and just about anyone! And God told him that as his heart was divided, so the kingdom would be divided. When Solomon died, the kingdom tore in two. 10 tribes in the north became known as Israel. 2 in the south became known as Judah. Oh, what a mess!

I'm here in Judah, on the wall of Jerusalem, looking out at armies marching towards us and King Ahaz, a descendant of David, could ask Yahweh, God of Israel for help and God would hear. He promised to hear him. But no. King Ahaz sent gold to the king of Assyria and asked the King of Assyria to save us. Why trust in the King of Assyria when the mighty God of Heaven and Earth has offered to save you?? King Ahaz is blind and so are most of the people here. They are like people stumbling about in the dark, who don't know what way is up and what way is down.

Isaiah the prophet told King Ahaz "Ask God for a sign! He will speak to you!" But Ahaz did not want to hear from God. Still Isaiah prophesied "Behold, the virgin (that's a woman who is not married and hasn't been with a man to make a baby) will give birth to a son and he shall be called Immanuel (which means God with us). But Assyria will turn the promised land from a beautiful garden into a desert wasteland." Still Ahaz does not listen.

PAUSE



1. What is the problem with King Ahaz? In what way is he blind?

ISAIAH SCRIPT PART 2

Resident of Jerusalem:

I wonder what Isaiah meant when he said that the baby would be Immanuel, God with us. Would God really visit us again in Jerusalem? I do hope so! Listen... he's speaking again... about some time in the future... What's he saying...?

Reader read from Isaiah 9v2-7

Resident of Jerusalem:

The world feels dark and confusing now. People are not trusting God, but one day God's light will dawn on us. I can't wait for that day!

PAUSE

1. Why was the world dark in Isaiah's time?
2. What hope did God give the people? (First coming of the Messiah...Jesus)





ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Game - blind man's buff

Craft - candles

Discussion - Light of the world

Prayer - Light of the world

CANDLES

You will need: paper worksheets, glue, tissue paper, scissors and colouring pens or pencils

1. Each child colours in a worksheet
2. Cut out and stick tissue paper around the candle to look like light streaming from the candle



BLIND MAN'S BUFF

1. Set the room out so obstacle and trip hazards are removed
2. Blindfold one child and when you say "go!", they must try to tag one of the other children
3. When another child is caught, they must swap over

PRAYER

Place a candle in the middle of the circle and pray for God to shine His light in the world and in your hearts.

A repeat after me prayer that you could use is:
Dear Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the World. Shine in my heart. Shine in the hearts of my friends. Shine in the hearts of my family. Help us to see You. Amen.

DISCUSSION LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Suggested prop: a blindfold and a candle

In what way do people nowadays walk in darkness?

The world walks in darkness, but God is bringing light.

Who is the light of the world?

How does Jesus shine His light in our lives? How does He help us see and understand what is happening and who we should trust in? What hope are we looking forward to in the future?

(Second coming of the Messiah)



Isaiah 9v2a "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."





PROPHETS SESSION 2 JEREMIAH

MAIN POINT

Sin separates us from God

Jesus is the way back to Father
God

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 9v2a "The
people who
walked in
darkness have
seen a great
light."

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in
Jeremiah chapters 30-31

In Jeremiah's day, the people of Israel and Judah were scattered and taken into exile, but God promised that one day, He would raise up a King from David's line and gather His people again. They would have peace and God would free them from their slavery.

ACTIVITIES

Game - gathering

Maze - I am the way

Craft - Signposts

Discussion - Lost

Prayer - Gather the lost

LEARNING

- Sin separates us from God
- God loves us with an everlasting love
- God sent Jesus to show us the way back to God
- God is calling His children home



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in
Jeremiah chapters 30-31

In Jeremiah's day, the people of Israel and Judah were scattered and taken into exile, but God promised that one day, He would raise up a King from David's line and gather His people home to worship God again. They would have peace.

EQUIPMENT

Costume of a Jewish exile in Babylon (e.g. tunic, plus a tea towel and rope as a head covering)

Plus a scroll (e.g. rolled up lining paper) to be used as the letter

INSTRUCTIONS

This story is told by an exile in Babylon who receives a letter from Jeremiah. This could be read out or, even better, acted in costume. The actor/actress reads a little of the letter which is written in bold and taken from excerpts of Jeremiah chapters 30 and 31. Between reading parts of the letter, they make reflective comments and ask rhetorical questions to help the children understand what is being said. You could stick the script to the scroll or print and roll up the script as the scroll.



JEREMIAH SCRIPT PART 1



Exile in Babylon:

[Looking dejected] Hello, are you new around here as well? I don't suppose you were captured too were you? I've just arrived here in Babylon. I'm from Judah, the land of God's people, Yahweh's people. But it feels like God has forgotten about us now.

Our city, Jerusalem, was overrun by Babylonians. I was captured and marched here to Babylon as a prisoner.

My home...lost. My family...lost... My friends...lost...My hope...lost...I'm lost. [Looking up to Heaven] Where are you in all this, God??

What's this? A letter! From Jeremiah the prophet! [handed a letter and opens it eagerly]

God speaks to Jeremiah and Jeremiah tells us what God says....Let's see...

Jeremiah says...**"Everyone is afraid. God's people turned from Him and would not follow Him. They trusted in the gods of the nations around them and God has given them over to those nations. There has been no day so terrible as this one for God's people...BUT...you will be saved!"**

Really?? How can that be?? We sinned against God. We have been sent away from Him. Why would He save us now??

Jeremiah says...**"I will bring you back from the land where you are slaves. I am with you to save you. I will rebuild your cities. I will raise up a new King who will sit on David's throne and you will have peace. I will gather you like a shepherd gathering sheep and you will sing and shout for joy! Though there is crying now, there will be rejoicing when God brings you home."**

But why would He do that? We don't deserve His rescue. We have sinned against Him, though He loved us and warned us and looked after us. We turned from the Lord. Why would He rescue us now?

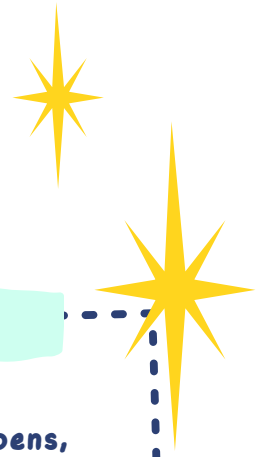
Oh wow! Listen to this...God says...**"I have loved you with an everlasting love! You will say to one another "Come let's go up to the Lord in Zion." Set up road signs and sign posts. "**

Zion is Jerusalem! That's where God's temple is. I long to go back to Jerusalem and worship God again. Jerusalem seems so far away right now. God seems far away. How will God bring us back to Himself? And who will be the new King on David's throne that will bring us home to God? I guess we will have to wait and see.





ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Game - gathering

Maze - I am the way

Craft - Signposts

Discussion - Lost

Prayer - Gather the lost

SIGNPOSTS

You will need: straws, tape, pens, worksheets printed

1. Each child colours in and cuts out a signpost
2. Stick the sign to the straw



PRAYER

Holding your signposts, think of one person you know that does not know God's love for them and has not met Jesus yet. Ask that God would help you to point them to Jesus and that God would gather them home to His family.

GATHERING

Hide small figures of people or animals around the room **before the session**. You could use a toy like duplo or playmobil or you could cut out paper people. Choose a bucket or a small house (e.g. doll's house or picture of a house) as the gathering point.

1. Ask the children to find the people that have been scattered around the room and bring them back home.

DISCUSSION LOST



Suggested prop: a compass or sign post and a map

Why did God's people end up being taken away from the promised land and into exile?

What did Jeremiah say that God would do for the people in the future?

Who is the future King that Jeremiah was talking about?

Jesus said "I am the WAY, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14v6) ...the WAY to what/who?

How can we set up "signposts" for people to help them find Jesus? (Explain the picture language)



I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31v3)

Come let us go up to Zion to the Lord our God! (Je 31v6)

JESUS SAID... I AM THE WAY! (JOHN 14V6)

I will gather them from the ends of the earth (Je31v8)

Set up road signs and guideposts! (Je 31v21)

SHOUT FOR JOY!

I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31v3)

Come let us go up to Zion to the Lord our God! (Je 31v6)

JESUS SAID... I AM THE WAY! (JOHN 14V6)

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SHOUT FOR JOY!

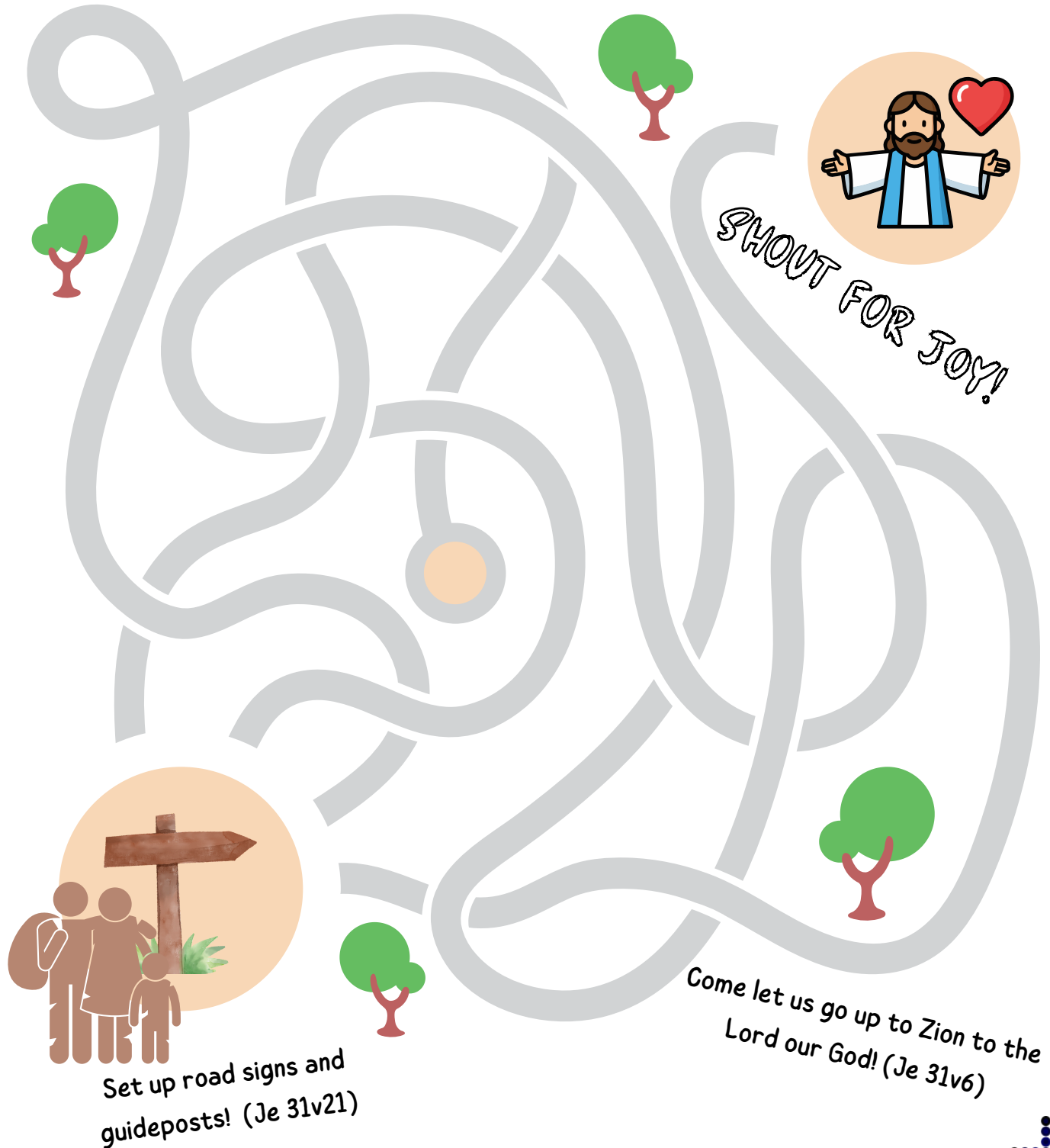
I will gather them from the
ends of the earth (Je31v8)

I have loved you with an
everlasting love (Jeremiah 31v3)

JESUS SAID...

I AM THE WAY!

(JOHN 14V6)



PROPHETS SESSION

3 MALACHI



MAIN POINT

God will come to His temple to offer a perfect sacrifice for sin, so we can worship God in Spirit and in truth

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 9v2a "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in the book of Malachi

The exiles had returned from Babylon and the temple was rebuilt, but people were not worshipping God with their whole hearts. The people, including the priests, were sinful. One day God would send a greater priest and a perfect sacrifice for sin.

ACTIVITIES

Game - blind man's buff

Craft - story circle

Discussion - Washing power

Prayer - Sorry stones

LEARNING

- The priests of Malachi's day were not honouring God fully
- God is not tricked by people pretending to love Him
- God came as Jesus to fulfil the role of the priest. Jesus came to the temple and offered Himself as the spotless lamb who takes away the sins of the world



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in
Malachi

Some have returned from exile, the temple is rebuilt but the priests dishonour God and God's presence is not resting in the temple. Malachi challenges the sin of the priests and says one day God will send a messenger and then God will come to His temple and clean the priesthood so they can worship God in righteousness.

EQUIPMENT

None needed, but you could have a couple of sheep and/or pictures of Solomon's temple, the 2nd temple and Jesus coming to the temple to help illustrate the story

INSTRUCTIONS

This story is told as a story to be read aloud. The narrative takes the point of view of two children going to worship God at the temple in Jerusalem, where they hear the evil way the priests are treating God and encounter the prophet Malachi.

This can be treated as a straightforward reading. You could get a couple of pictures one of Solomon's temple and the glory cloud, one of the 2nd temple without a glory cloud and one of Jesus coming to the temple. Or you could have a couple of sheep with you as props.



MALACHI STORY PART 1

Story: Children encounter Malachi

It was the year 460 BC and a little lad with tufty brown hair was walking into Jerusalem with his dad. He had a beautiful sheep with him. It was the best in his family's flock. The lamb was one year old and had a fleece that was white and shiny. As the boy walked along, he spotted a little girl walking through the sheep gate into the city with her family.

"Hello, are you going to the temple too?" the boy asked. "We're going to offer a sacrifice to God, just like God told us to through Moses."

The girl nodded, smiling.

"Dad says, when we offer a perfect lamb, without disease, God accepts the animal's life as payment for our sin and we can enjoy being with God, praying and singing to Him." The boy went on. "I love going to the temple!"

"Me too," said the girl. Her bright eyes sparkling at the thought of it. "It is where we get to spend time with God!"

"I do wish I could have seen the other temple though," said the boy. "You know? The one our grandparents saw."

"You mean the one that Solomon built?" Asked the girl. "People say that that was even more beautiful and God would rest on it in a glory cloud! I wish I could have seen that!"

"Yes that's the one! But that was before everything went pear-shaped. Before the people of Judah and Israel sinned against God and started fighting each other. Before people started trusting in the gods of other nations and we were taken into exile as slaves of Babylon.

God promised that He would bring us back to Jerusalem and He has done that! Well, sort of...

Some of us are back. I have an aunt and cousins in Babylon still and family in Persia. It feels like things still aren't all better yet. We don't have a king. We still have to serve other nations and there is no glory cloud..." The boy sighed. "One day maybe..." The boy finished, a little deflated.

His friend smiled kindly at him and said, "If God said we would have a king one day who will sit on David's throne, then we will. We have a temple again and no one thought that would ever happen! If God said He will do it, then He'll do it."

"I suppose you're right," said the boy brightening. The little girl's smile was like sunshine on a cloudy morning and they went skipping off to the temple together with their beautiful lambs.

As they approached the large stone steps, however, they overheard a couple of priests in long fancy robes sniggering and scheming together. The children were surprised at what they heard. The priests were supposed to represent and honour God, but these ones were not!

"Haha!" One was saying, "Spotless lamb! This one is missing its legs! This one is blind! This one's old. Ah well. Never mind. We don't want to waste our best animals worshipping God here at the temple. We'll give God the bad ones and keep the best for our party back at home."

"Yes, I don't see what good comes of following God's laws anyway!" Replied the other, "He never answers my prayers."





MALACHI STORY PART 2



The children were shocked! They looked at each other in alarm.

"How could they talk like that?!" The boy asked. "They don't fear God at all!"

"They think they can trick God and steal the animals for themselves! Someone should say something!" Exclaimed the girl.

Just then, someone did say something. A man with a long grey beard holding a staff and wearing a shabby tunic stood up and started telling off the priests.

"Who is it? Is it Moses?" Asked the girl in astonishment.

"No! He's been dead for hundreds of years. I know who he is! He is Malachi! God's messenger!" Replied the boy.

"Shut the doors of the temple!" Malachi called out. "Keep your worthless offerings oh priests of Levi! You think you can trick God by promising Him a blameless animal, but bring Him a diseased one instead! He will not be tricked! He sees your hearts and your hearts are full of sin. You do not bring Him worship. You get tired of obeying His commands and you wonder why He does not answer your prayers! He does not answer you, because you do not honour Him!"

The children were stunned. They turned to look at the priests who had frozen in surprise, but the prophet was not finished.

"God knows the difference between those who love Him truly and those who do not! Those who do evil, God will burn up like grass, but those who do good, God will heal. They shall leap for joy."

When Malachi spoke about leaping for joy, he pointed to the children and their families. They turned red with embarrassment, but their hearts danced with joy and hope inside them.

"Behold, the Lord will send His messenger before Him and then the Lord will come to His temple and offer a perfect sacrifice for sin. He will come like a man with laundry soap. He will wash His people and His priests clean and His people will worship God in righteousness."

The prophet swept out of the temple as suddenly as he had begun. The priests were silent. The children turned to one another.

"Did you hear that?" asked the boy. "The Lord will come to His temple!"

"Do you think He means the glory cloud like Solomon saw?" asked the girl.

"I don't know. I don't think a cloud can offer a sacrifice. It sounded like He would come as a priest."

"I can't wait for that to happen!"

The children looked at their spotless lambs and wonder filled their hearts. God was going to come to this temple! Wow!

PAUSE

1. Why was God not answering the priests prayers?
2. What did Malachi say was going to happen in the future?





ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Game for young kids - bubbles

Game for older kids -

Shampoo showdown

(See also alternative for a large room or outside)

Craft - story circle

Discussion - Washing power

Prayer - Sorry stones

STORY WHEELS

You will need: paper worksheets, scissors, pens, split pins

1. Colour in and cut out the two circles
2. Use a split pin to attach the story circle to the cover circle, putting the pin through the centre of each circle
3. Rotate the story circle to reveal Malachi's message



GAMES

Bubbles:

Use a bubble machine or blowing bubbles, put some music on and let the kids run about and pop the bubbles

Shampoo Showdown:

Line up 3-5 empty shampoo or similar bottles and have the children line up in two teams at the other end of the room. In a relay, they throw beanbags at the bottles and the team that knocks over the most wins.

PRAYER

You will need: a bowl of water, tea towel, pebbles
Now that Jesus has come, we can say sorry to God and our hearts are washed clean.

1. Take a pebble
2. While you wash it in the water, say sorry to God for the wrong things you have done and ask God to forgive you
3. As you dry the pebble, thank God that He has washed you clean



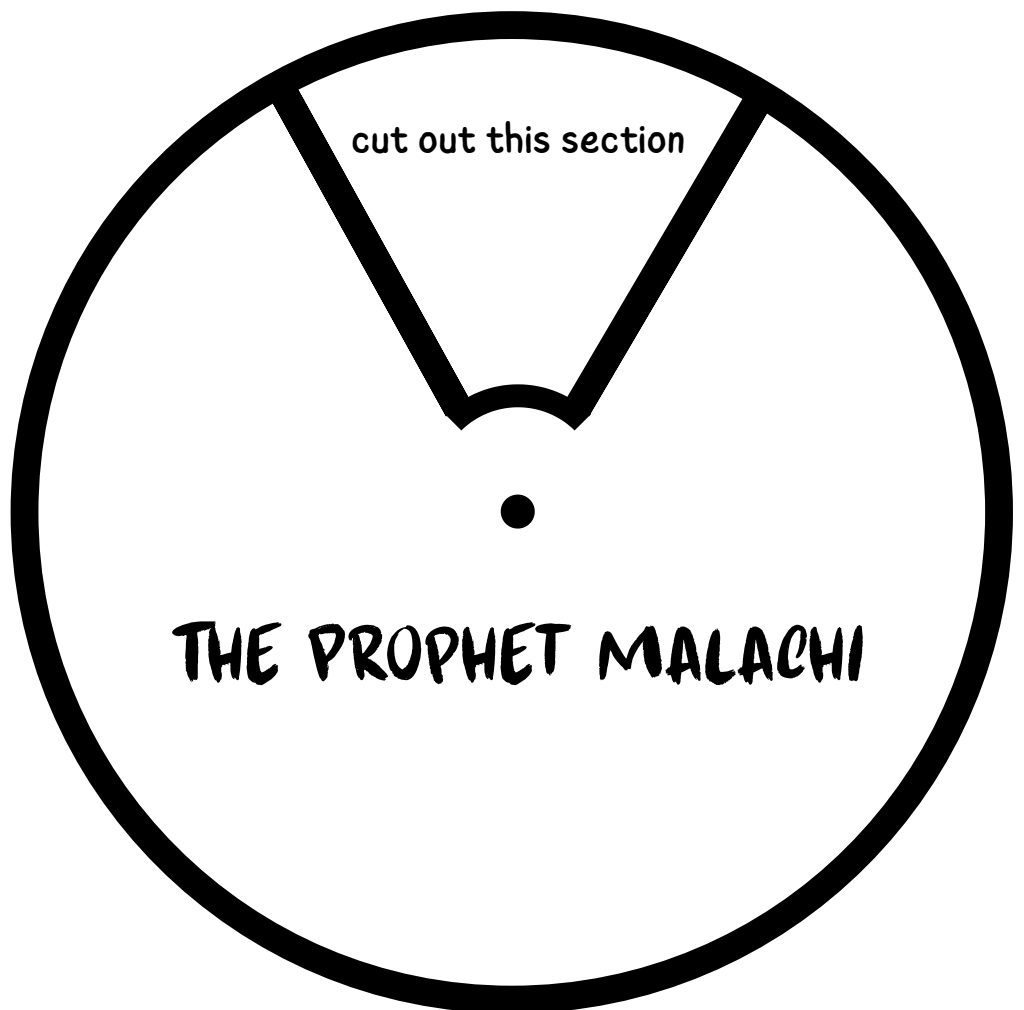
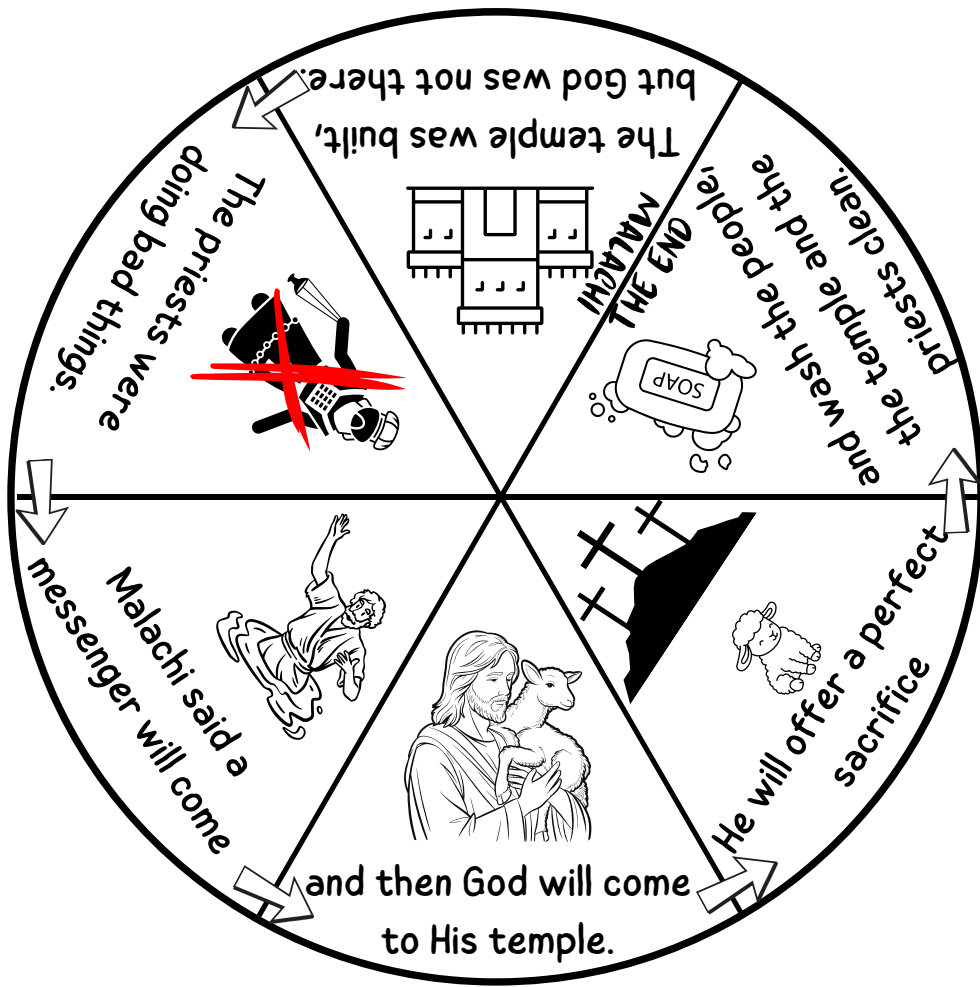
DISCUSSION WASHING POWER

Suggested props: Pick three or four of the following examples: Washing detergent, hand soap, tooth brush/paste, furniture polish, window cleaner, car sponge

What do each of these things have the power to clean?

Malachi said that the people's hearts were dirty. They were full of sin and their worship was not good, because they did not honour God. He said that someone would come like a person with laundry soap to wash the priesthood, the temple and God's people. What would it take to wash our hearts and create a clean temple? Washing powder?? Something else?





SHAMPOO SHOWDOWN ALTERNATIVE FOR BIGGER SPACE



Sticking with the washing soap theme...

If you have a very energetic group and a bit more space, this might be a good option...

You will need: two shampoo bottles (not completely empty otherwise they will fall over too easily), 2 hoops and a beanbag (if laying outside, you will need something like cones to mark a pitch area)

1. Stand a shampoo bottle in a hoop at either end of the room
2. Divide the children into two teams. One will be attempting to knock over the shampoo bottle at one end and the other will be attempting to knock over the shampoo bottle at the other end
3. Have them begin with a hand against the wall next to the shampoo they are defending. Place a beanbag in the centre of the room and blow a whistle or make a signal for them to begin.
4. They must throw the beanbag to one another to knockdown the opponents shampoo bottle
5. They must not run/walk/move other than pivoting on the spot when they have the beanbag
6. They cannot snatch the beanbag from another players hand
7. No one can enter the hoops that the shampoo bottles are placed in
8. If the beanbag is thrown out of play, the other team begins with it next to where it went out
9. One point is won each time the opponent's shampoo bottle is knocked over
10. If the shampoo bottle is knocked over by the banging of feet and not by being hit by a beanbag, it can be stood up again and the game continues without any points being given. If it happens a lot, consider putting a bit more water in it to weigh it down.

