

Book Introduction

The celebration of Christmas is really about Jesus and the reason he came to earth. Long before Jesus came to earth, prophets promised that God would send a savior. A prophet is a person who speaks for God and tells about what will happen in the future. The prophecies in the Old Testament of the Bible tell us what the savior would be like. They tell us about Jesus. At Christmas we want to remember what the Bible teaches us about the Savior.

Discussion Questions

Day 1: What is a prophet? What did the prophets say God would do? Why is what they said important?

Day 2: What is a virgin? What did the prophet say the virgin would have? Why is that strange? What would the virgin's son do?

Day 3: Whose line did the prophets say the Savior would come from? What would he do for all people? What is salvation? Why do we need salvation?

Day 4: Where would the Savior be born? What was special about Bethlehem? Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem instead of where his parents lived?

Day 5: Whom would God send before the Savior came? What would that person do? What is our shame? Who was the prophet who came before Jesus? How do we know John was the one who was to come first?

Day 6: How do we know Jesus is the Son of God? Why do people reject Jesus? Why is life better when we obey Jesus?

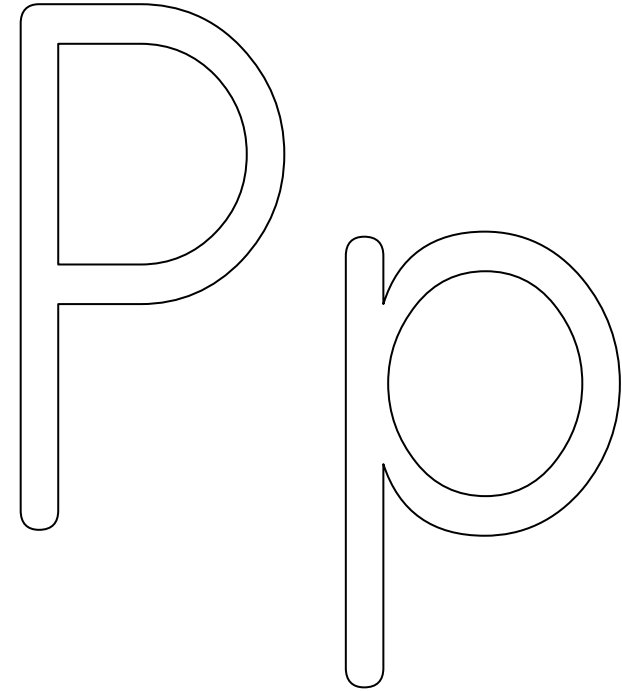
Lesson Rhyme

P—P	Make sign of P
Prophets	Move sign of P out from mouth
Foretold of	Move sign of P in a circle out in front
Jesus' birth	Put arms together like rocking a baby
P—P—Prophets	Same as above
A Savior'd	Form a cross with index fingers
come to earth	Put arms together in a circle over head.



Christmas 1

What did the prophets say about the Savior?



P—P—Prophets
Foretold of Jesus' birth
P—P—Prophets
A Savior'd come to earth

Day 1

Draw a picture of a prophet.

Long ago God's prophets
foretold of Jesus' birth,
That the Father up above
would send a Savior to the earth.
The prophets promised many signs
the Savior's birth would show,
So when God's Son came to earth
the people'd surely know.

Day 6

Draw a picture of you and Jesus.

The prophecies have been fulfilled
but people still reject God's Son.
They don't want to bow to Jesus;
they don't believe he is the One.
The hearts of men are hard and dark,
they don't want to go God's way.
They can't see that life is better,
when Jesus they obey.

2 Peter 1:19:¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

John 3:19-20:¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

Day 5 Draw a picture of Jesus and John the Baptist.

Another prophet God would send
before the Savior came
He'd prepare the hearts of men
by speaking of their shame.
Jesus said that John
was the one the Father sent.
And in order to be baptized
it was to John that Jesus went.

Day 2 Draw a picture of Mary and Angel Gabriel.

Isaiah said a virgin
would have a baby boy.
He would save God's people
and fill their hearts with joy.
Jesus' mother was a virgin;
she hadn't been a wife.
And so the Holy Spirit
was the one who gave Christ life.

Malachi 4:5-6: ⁵ "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents."

Isaiah 7:14: ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Day 3 Draw a picture of King David playing a harp.

The Savior'd be of David,
 a good and faithful king.
Salvation to all people
 is the gift that he would bring.
Jesus' royal lineage
 fulfilled the prophet's sign,
As both Mary and good Joseph
 were from King David's line

Day 4 Draw a picture of the town of Bethlehem.

The Savior would be born
 in King David's own hometown.
So Bethlehem would be the place
 the baby would be found.
Jesus' earthly parents
 lived in Nazareth far away.
But by the king's decree
 they were in Bethlehem that day.

Jeremiah 23:5:⁵ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Micah 5:2:² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."