

We Have Waited



Isaiah 25:8–9; Luke 2:25–38 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 52, “We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us,” on Gospel Library**

START

Isaiah wrote a line that fits the whole Old Testament. “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us” (Isaiah 25:9).

READ TOGETHER

This week’s title comes from that verse. For thousands of years, prophets and faithful people looked forward to the Messiah, and many of them died still waiting (Hebrews 11:13).

ISAIAH 25:9

⁹ And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

LUKE 2:25–26

²⁵ And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. ²⁶ And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

LUKE 2:28–30

²⁸ Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: ³⁰ For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

WHAT IT TEACHES

Simeon was an old man in Jerusalem, “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). The Holy

Ghost had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Lord’s Christ (verse 26).

When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon took him in his arms. “For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,” he said (Luke 2:28–30). After a lifetime of waiting, he held the promise in his hands.

Anna, an old widow, served in the temple night and day with fasting and prayer. When she saw the child, she gave thanks and spoke of him “to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem” (Luke 2:36–38).

Isaiah’s verse ends with joy. “We will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” This year’s Come, Follow Me reading was the Old Testament, a record of people waiting. Christmas is the day they waited for.

TALK ABOUT IT

Simeon and Anna waited their whole lives to see the Savior. What are we waiting for right now, and how can we wait with faith the way they did?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Isaiah said, “we have waited for him, and he will save us.” Simeon waited his whole life, then held the baby Jesus in the temple and said his eyes had seen salvation.

Star out of Jacob

Numbers 24:15–17; Matthew 2:1–11 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

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START

More than a thousand years before Jesus was born, a man hired to curse Israel blessed it instead. He said, “There shall come a Star out of Jacob” (Numbers 24:17).

READ TOGETHER

Balaam was a prophet from outside Israel. Balak, the king of Moab, paid him to curse the Israelites camped nearby, and the Lord let him speak only blessings (Numbers 22:5–6; 24:10).

NUMBERS 24:17

¹⁷I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

MATTHEW 2:1–2

¹Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ²Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

MATTHEW 2:9–10

⁹When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Balaam saw someone far in the future. “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh”

(Numbers 24:17). A Star would rise from Jacob’s family, and a sceptre, the rod a king holds, would come out of Israel.

Wise men from the east saw his star and came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:1–2). The star went before them to the house where the young child was, and “they rejoiced with exceeding great joy” (Matthew 2:9–10).

On the other side of the world, a Lamanite prophet named Samuel promised a new star as a sign of the Savior’s birth (Helaman 14:5). When the day came, the night stayed as light as noon, and a new star appeared (3 Nephi 1:19–21).

Jesus calls himself “the bright and morning star” (Revelation 22:16). The morning star shines brightest just before dawn.

TALK ABOUT IT

The wise men traveled a long way following a star. What helps our family keep our eyes on the Savior this Christmas week?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Balaam saw a Star coming out of Jacob more than a thousand years before the wise men followed one to Bethlehem. Jesus is the bright and morning star.

The Stem of Jesse



Isaiah 11:1–5; Luke 1:26–33 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

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START

When a tree is cut down, a small green shoot sometimes comes up from the stump. Isaiah used that picture for the family of King David (Isaiah 11:1).

READ TOGETHER

Jesse was King David’s father. Isaiah foresaw that David’s royal family would be cut down like a tree, and it was, when Babylon took Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:7).

ISAIAH 11:1–2

¹And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ²And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

LUKE 1:31–33

³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³²He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

WHAT IT TEACHES

“There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots” (Isaiah 11:1). Jeremiah and Zechariah called the coming King “the Branch” too (Jeremiah 33:15;

Zechariah 3:8). New life would come from a family everyone thought was finished.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that her son would receive “the throne of his father David” and that “of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:31–33). Joseph belonged to David’s family, so he went to Bethlehem to be taxed (Luke 1:27; 2:4).

Isaiah 11:2 describes the Branch. “The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding.” He would judge the poor with righteousness (Isaiah 11:4). That is the kind of King Jesus is.

Moroni quoted Isaiah 11 to Joseph Smith in 1823 and said it was about to be fulfilled (his account). The Branch that grew from Jesse’s roots is still bearing fruit.

TALK ABOUT IT

A shoot from an old stump looks small and weak. Why do you think Heavenly Father sent his Son as a baby in a humble family?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Isaiah saw a green branch growing from Jesse’s stump. Jesus, born of David’s family, is that Branch, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Keeping Watch by Night

Luke 2:1–20 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

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Tonight is Christmas Eve. Many families read Luke 2 tonight, and this lesson prints the part about the shepherds.

START

On the night Jesus was born, the first people to hear the news were shepherds “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8).

READ TOGETHER

Caesar Augustus had ordered everyone to be taxed, so Joseph took Mary, who was about to have a baby, to Bethlehem, the city of David (Luke 2:1–5). There was no room in the inn, and Mary laid her newborn son in a manger (Luke 2:7).

LUKE 2:8–11

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:13–14

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Shepherds were ordinary working people, out in the fields at night. The angel’s first words to them were “Fear not” (Luke 2:10). The news was “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

President Dallin H. Oaks taught why the shepherds may have been chosen. “The shepherds were probably chosen to receive these good tidings because they were meek and humble. Thus, they were uniquely receptive to the message of heaven, which they verified by visiting the newborn.”

President Dallin H. Oaks, “Good Tidings of Great Joy,” First Presidency Christmas devotional, December 2022

The angel called the baby “a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Shepherds in Bethlehem cared for lambs, and this baby would become the Lamb of God (John 1:29). He would also be the Good Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep (John 10:11).

The shepherds came “with haste,” found the baby, and then told everyone what they had seen (Luke 2:16–17). Mary “kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).

TALK ABOUT IT

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and then told everyone. Mary kept these things and pondered them. Which one are you more like, and what will you do with the Christmas story this year?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The first people to hear of the Savior’s birth were shepherds working at night. The good tidings of great joy are for all people, and that includes every ordinary family.

Unto Us a Child



Isaiah 9:2–7 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

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Today is Christmas. This lesson is short enough for a busy morning.

START

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6).

READ TOGETHER

Isaiah wrote these words about seven hundred years before the birth in Bethlehem. Just before them, he promised that “the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2).

ISAIAH 9:6–7

⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Isaiah gave the child a string of names. “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Each one tells us something about who Jesus is.

He is Wonderful, because what he has done for us is more than we can understand. He is a Counsellor we can go to in prayer. He is the Prince of Peace, and “of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end” (Isaiah 9:7).

The baby laid in a manger is the mighty God, Jehovah of the Old Testament. Heavenly Father gave his Son to the world (John 3:16). The gifts we give today are small echoes of that gift.

TALK ABOUT IT

Which of the Savior’s names in Isaiah 9:6 means the most to you today, and why?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Isaiah called the child Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. Today we celebrate the birth of the gift God gave the whole world.

God with Us



Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

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START

An angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20).

READ TOGETHER

Joseph and Mary were engaged when Joseph learned she was expecting a child. He was a kind and just man, and he planned to end the engagement privately (Matthew 1:18–19).

ISAIAH 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

MATTHEW 1:20–21

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. **21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The angel told Joseph the child’s name. “Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). In Hebrew, the name Jesus is Yeshua, a form of Joshua, which means the Lord saves.

Matthew saw Isaiah’s prophecy fulfilled. “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall

call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). Matthew explained that the name means “God with us” (Matthew 1:22–23).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel said (Matthew 1:24). He married Mary, cared for her, named the baby Jesus, and later took his family to Egypt to keep the child safe (Matthew 2:13–14). Joseph’s obedience protected the Son of God.

“God with us” is the Christmas message. Jesus Christ came to be with us in our joys and our sorrows, and after his Resurrection he promised, “Lo, I am with you alway” (Matthew 28:20).

TALK ABOUT IT

Joseph obeyed quickly, even when it was hard to understand. When has someone in our family followed a prompting and blessed others?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins. His other name, Immanuel, means God with us.

All Things Bear Record



Exodus 12:5–13; Numbers 21:8–9; John 3:14–15 · This week: We Have Waited for Him, and He Will Save Us, Christmas

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START

The Lord told Adam that all things were made to bear record of the Savior (Moses 6:63).

READ TOGETHER

The Old Testament is full of symbols that point to Jesus Christ. Nephi wrote that the law of Moses and everything God gave from the beginning were given to point people to him (2 Nephi 11:4).

NUMBERS 21:8–9

⁸And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. ⁹And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

JOHN 3:14–15

¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The Passover lamb had to be without blemish, and its blood on the doorposts saved Israel’s firstborn (Exodus 12:5–7; 12:13). Paul wrote, “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

When fiery serpents bit the Israelites, Moses lifted a brass serpent on a pole, and whoever looked at it lived (Numbers 21:8–9). Jesus said, “Even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14). Looking to him is how we live.

Water came out of a rock when Moses struck it (Exodus 17:6). Paul wrote, “and that Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4). Manna fell from heaven six days a week for forty years (Exodus 16:26; 16:35), and Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

Next year’s Come, Follow Me reading is the New Testament. There we will meet the same Savior in person, walking and teaching among the people who had waited for him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Which symbol of Jesus Christ from the Old Testament stood out to you this year? What would you like to look for when we read the New Testament?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The lamb, the brass serpent, the rock, and the manna all pointed to Jesus Christ. The Old Testament waited for him, and next year we will read about his life.