

NOVEMBER 1-7

FOR PARENTS

We enter the world of the prophets this week. The Bible contains 17 books written by prophets.

Although God judged the people when they sinned, God still loved them and remained faithful to them. God sent them prophets to speak God's word at significant times and during critical situations. These may be words of warning, pending doom and destruction, hope, or God's faithfulness and trustworthiness.

The prophet Isaiah is one who points to God's promise to send the Messiah, a suffering servant. God is always faithful and sent Jesus to be the Messiah. Messiah means "anointed one." The New Testament word for Messiah is Christ. Jesus is called the Christ, because God anointed him to be the Savior who would rescue us from sin and death.

Amos was a farmer from the Southern Kingdom of Judah who spoke God's word to the leaders of the Northern Kingdom. Jeremiah was a very reluctant prophet who spoke bravely in public during the divided kingdom and up to the Exile. Isaiah lived at a crucial time and spoke as the divided kingdom headed toward grave danger. Monster empires were growing around Judah, and the nation of Judah stood at a crossroads. Isaiah was faithful in reminding the people that God is faithful and can be trusted.

KID CONNECTION

In a child's world there are many things of which to be afraid; the dark, monsters under the bed, etc. Sometimes fear is unspoken and it takes time for parents to discern what is causing the fear or behavior coming from the fear. God's people needed to hear that God was with them and there was no need to be afraid. Your child needs that reassurance, too. Trusting in God and trusting in parents can look the same for young children. Help your child learn to trust God by being a trustworthy adult in their life. Remind them each day on the way out the door that God is with them always and forever!

REMEMBER 1 THING

**No need to be afraid. God is with you and has sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and death.
Trust God!**

READING PLAN

Day	*Titles Found on Website	Scripture
11/1	Telling the Truth *	Selected verses in Amos
11/2	The Story of Jeremiah *	Selected verses in Jeremiah
11/3	The Story of Isaiah *	Isaiah 1-39
11/4	Isaiah's Message *	Selected verses of Isaiah
11/5	A Servant Leader *	Isaiah 40-53
11/6	You are Not Alone *	Isaiah 42:1-7
Sunday	Fear Not; God Is with You	Isaiah 43

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Instructions and discussion tips are available on the church website.

Choose one or more activities that will interest your family as you make this week's stories your own.

Make a Triarama

Look at the images from Isaiah 43 and create a pictograph of those images.

Messages of Hope

Share messages of hope that people in your neighborhood will see.

Mindfulness prayer

Supplies needed: candle, lighter, snuffer (optional).

Participate in a mindfulness prayer to remind family members that God is with them and they are not alone.

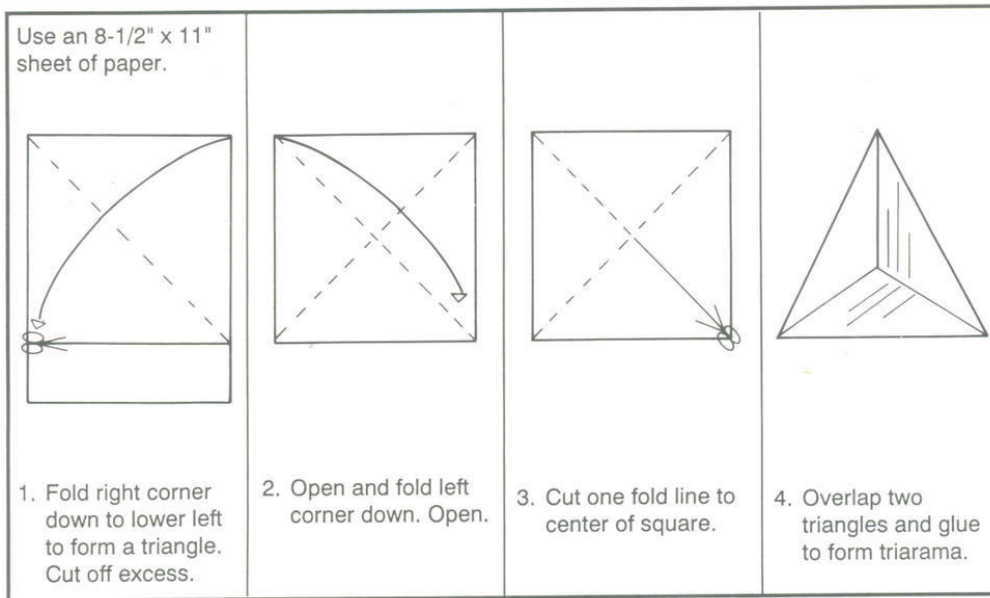
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Make a Triarama

Supplies needed: piece of stiff 8.5"X11" paper for each family member, markers or crayons.

Use the pictures below to prepare a piece of paper for each person in your family, stopping after step 3.

Triarama



Read Isaiah 43:1-3a. Talk about the images in this Scripture (walking through water, flames, fear not, etc.). Each person can decide what three images or words they want to put in their Triarama. Each family member can decorate three pieces of their paper using the images/words they chose. Put the Triarama together, referring to step 4 in the diagram above. Share with each other the images you drew, then place your triaramas in a place where they will remind you to "Fear Not."

Messages of Hope

Supplies needed: sidewalk chalk or paper and art supplies

Early in the book of Isaiah, we read messages of hope that God told the prophet Isaiah to share with the people.

Create message of hope for people in your neighborhood.

If appropriate, use sidewalk chalk to write message of hope on the sidewalk in front of your home. Or create paper notes and take them to neighbors.

Your messages might read "You are a child of God;" "God loves you;" "God loves you and so do I" or a phrase of your choosing. Use art supplies to create a colorful message of hope.

Mindfulness (Prayer) activity

Supplies needed: pillar candle, lighter, snuffer (optional)

Invite family members to join you, sitting in a comfortable position. Light the Christ Candle and darken the room a bit, if possible. Prepare to pray using this mindfulness activity: Squeeze and release different muscle

groups in your body beginning at your toes and working your way to neck and head. Squeeze each muscle group for 5 seconds then slowly release each set of muscles.

When family members have relaxed, invite them to name things of which they are afraid. When something is named, ask all family members to reply, "Fear Not, for you are God's child." (from Isaiah 43: 1).

When everyone has had ample time to voice their fears and hear God's reassurance, say, "Amen" and change the light by using a snuffer to change the light (we use the phrase "change the Light" instead of extinguish the candle to remind us that, just as the smoke rises and moves around the room, God is always with us, the Light never goes away and is not just in this place, but in all places.)