

## Weekly Worship Guide 2024 – Week 10

Prayer Focus: Your Pastors / Elders

Memory Verse: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

– 1 Timothy 1:15

<b>Shepherding Notes</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Bible in a Year</b>
<hr/> Sunday <hr/>		
Service Review	Service Review	Service Review
<hr/> Monday <hr/>		
Isaiah 2	Exodus 3	1 Chronicles 7 1 Chronicles 8
<hr/> Tuesday <hr/>		
Isaiah 3-4	Exodus 4	1 Chronicles 9 1 Chronicles 10
<hr/> Wednesday <hr/>		
Isaiah 5	Exodus 5	1 Chronicles 11 1 Chronicles 12
<hr/> Thursday <hr/>		
Isaiah 6	Exodus 6	Isaiah 7 Isaiah 8
<hr/> Friday <hr/>		
Isaiah 9	Exodus 7	Isaiah 10 Isaiah 11
<hr/> Saturday <hr/>		
Job 17	Proverbs 10	Isaiah 12 Isaiah 13

### March 3 Sunday Service Review

- Was there anyone at church today that you think might need extra encouragement from you this week? How could you go about showing the love of the Lord to that person in a practical way?
- What was the primary text of Scripture that was preached this morning? Was it a text that you are already well versed in? What did you learn that you never knew before? What did the Lord refresh in your memory that led you to a deeper love of Him?
- How did the sermon reveal the glory of Jesus Christ?
- What will you meditate upon over the course of the week from today's service?

## March 4 Shepherding Notes – Isaiah 2

By Caleb Bunch

Isaiah 2-4 is a masterful poem filled with complex through patterns and formulations that create a brilliant word tapestry. Even as you look at the formatting on your page, you should notice that this looks more like the Psalms than it does the narrative portions of Scripture. Like most poetry, the prophetic poetry in the book of Isaiah contains metaphorical flourishes that are only able to be understood in the light of some of the more clear and direct statements that are included. Today we are literally going to look at the bottom line. We will examine two verses in chapter 2 that reveal the beating heart of this glorious poem.

### Walk in the Light

The end of the first section says, “O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (vs. 6) There is a great deal of debate about the nature of the mountain of the Lord that is so often mentioned in this portion of the chapter. Some argue that it is the Old Testament temple. Others argue that it is speaking about heaven. Most scholars in my theological camp view this to be a reference to the church - the New Covenant gathered people of God. However, the point that Isaiah was making to his original audience is the exact same regardless. He is calling Judah, and by extension each one of us, to walk in the light. Right here at the outset of the book of Isaiah, we see the clarion call of Isaiah’s warning. Isaiah’s prophecies are not merely telling the future. He is preaching a message of repentance. He is calling on His people to repent and to begin living their lives in such a way that glorifies God and represents Him accurately to a lost and dying world. Are you walking in darkness? Are you hiding sin? Are you refusing to confess and repent something? If so, then Isaiah’s poem is graciously calling you to lay down your pride and to walk in the light. As the poem moves forward, there are going to be many warnings for those who do not repent. There will never be a better time to repent than right now. Don’t wait.

### “Stop Regarding Man”

The very end of this chapter says, “Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?” As my friend and mentor, Ed Moore, has said; “the best of men are men at best.” The first king of earth, Adam, handed his dominion over to the first creature to tempt him. Noah was mastered by his love of alcohol and for it he received abuse from his own son. Abraham was mastered by his desire for security and for it he damaged his relationship with his wife and set a pattern of deceit that lasted generations. Moses was mastered by his temper and for it was held out of the promised land. The **best** king of Israel, David, was mastered by his own lust and for it he lost his son and the respect of the kingdom he governed. The list could easily go on for pages, but I highlight these men because they are the greatest heroes of the faith, yet they were massive failures in a variety of ways. The Bible does not sugar coat the details of their lives. The Holy Spirit had no interest or intention of inspiring a book of mythological heroes and archetypes of moral perfection. God has been honest with us that these men were complex individuals with a lot of bumps in the road of sanctification.

In John 2:24 it says that But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people. Jesus knew the hearts of the people all around Him. Even those who were part of the twelve deserted him. Judas betrayed Him. Peter denied Him. Thomas doubted His resurrection. They all ran away when He was arrested. And those were the guys that were nearest to Jesus. He did not entrust Himself to men because they were all untrustworthy. Jesus knew that He was their Savior, not the other way around. God is using Isaiah to warn Judah to stop regarding people. Stop

looking at them as possible Saviors. He must tell them this because the natural bent of the human heart is to search for a Savior. We want someone who will fight our battles for us. Someone who will give us safety and security. We want someone who will be glad that we are on His team. We are naturally drawn to the notion that someone could save us from whatever we feel the need of being saved. The Israelites kept looking to political or military leaders to be their savior. Are we really all that different? Isaiah is speaking these words that should radiate through your heart and mind this election season. Jesus is the only Savior. Vote your conscience and guard your heart from idolatry.

### March 4 - Family Worship

#### Read Exodus 3

Discussion Questions:

- What was strange about the burning bush that first attracted Moses' attention? (It was burning, but it was not consumed.)
- Look at verse 8 again. Who does God say is going to deliver the people of Israel? (God Himself.)
- Moses became nervous about going back to Egypt. How does God encourage Moses to go deliver the Israelites? (He said, "I will be with you" in vs. 12.)
- Read vs. 19-20. Do you know the story of Exodus? What is God talking about in these verses? (The plagues, the Passover, the Red Sea crossing, etc.)
- Why do you think God told Moses three separate times in this chapter that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (Because God made covenant promises to those men. God was essentially telling Moses that He was going to keep the promises to bring the people back to the Promised Land.)

Song: [He Is Our God](#)

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that your pastors / elders would lead the church with wisdom from God.

**Family Activity:** 'Did You Know?'

Paul wrote 13 books of the Bible. Each person should share one of the most obscure facts that they know (and can prove) about something that Paul wrote in one of his 13 letters.

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### Bible in a Year

- 1 Chronicles 7
- 1 Chronicles 8

## March 5 Shepherding Notes – Isaiah 3-4

By Caleb Bunch

Every human society on earth requires leadership. When one leader is removed, whether by resignation, revolt, revolution, or death, there is an inevitable power vacuum. Someone must always be in power. This is not only true in nations. It is also true in families, businesses, and even churches. Someone is in charge. Isaiah 3 is helping us examine the theological question of leadership. How is it, from a divine perspective, that people are raised up into a position of power? Why do evil people sometimes rise to the most prominent of positions? Isaiah chapter 3 gives us a brilliant glimpse into the mind of God as to why He raises up certain types of leaders. It helps us understand the very nature of the downfall of a society.

The book of Isaiah is an equal opportunity book of judgment. He proclaims judgment against every neighboring nation: Egypt, Edom, Tyre, Assyria, Moab, Ethiopia, just to name a few. However, the main target of Isaiah's book was the nation of Judah. The poem in chapters 2-4 serve as a single declaration against Judah. This book of Isaiah was written for you. But it was not written to you. It was written to Judah. Therefore, we cannot simply drag and drop these promises or curses into our current national or political situation. Judah is not America and vice versa. Yesterday we heard the call of Isaiah to stop regarding men and thinking of them as saviors. In the first five verses of chapter 3, God is essentially saying that the people are going to lose their safety net. God promises that "infants" will rule over them. (That is probably not speaking about age, but maturity.) Those leaders are form of judgment against Judah for their rebellion. Verses 6-9 compare their wickedness to that of Sodom and Gomorrah. They don't even try to hide it anymore. They are proud of it. So, God simply gave them what they wanted. God then explains that He is going to systematically deconstruct all the things that they have used to imagine themselves beautiful. He uses explicit language to say that He is going to expose them and embarrass them. He is going to knock Judah off her high seat of pride and bring her low to sit in the dust.

Even if you were reading this in your Bible with no section headings, you would probably the drastic nature of the tonal shift that takes place in Isaiah 4:2. It is like you were driving one direction, then suddenly somebody grabbed the wheel and spun the car in the opposite direction. "In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel."

This is the beginning of a long and glorious thread that will weave from this point through the prophets until it is fulfilled in the life of Jesus. In particular, I am referring to the title of Jesus as the Branch. 'Branch' in this context is family tree terminology. This is the only occasion when the Messiah is referred to as the Branch of the Lord. Typically, we will see Him called the Branch of David. But it is significant that the first time this Messianic promise is delivered, God is making it clear that the family line is divine. God is already hinting at the virgin birth (which He will make much more explicit in the next few chapters). Jesus is the true leader of Israel. He is the long-awaited ruler. Jesus is here described as beautiful and glorious. This is not a reference to physical beauty in Jesus. Rather, it is speaking about Jesus in opposite terms to how God described the earthly leaders of Judah. He is a king of righteousness who leads His people into the glory of God.

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## March 5 - Family Worship

### Read Exodus 4

#### Discussion Questions:

- What are the three 'signs' that God told Moses that he would be able to perform? (Staff into serpent and back again, hand leprous then not leprous, water of the Nile to blood.)
- Do you think that Pharaoh will be convinced by these signs? (No.) Why not? Do signs and wonders cause people's hearts to change? (No.) God has to do a good work in someone's heart to cause them to believe. Signs and wonders gave evidence to God's people that Moses had seen God. But, Pharaoh would not be convinced by them because his heart was not changed by God. One time the Pharisees told Jesus that they would believe in Him if He would just show them a sign. Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign..." (Matthew 12:39) Don't wait for God to show you signs or miracles. You have everything you need for faith and godliness in God's Word. Believe the Bible, trust in Jesus.
- What excuse did Moses make to avoid going back to Egypt? (I am not eloquent, but slow of speech and of tongue.) Read vs. 11-12 again. How does God make it clear that He is not worried about Moses' limitations? (God made Moses' mouth, and God would give Moses the exact words to say.)

Song: [How Great is Our God](#)

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that your pastors/elders would be faithful, pure, and upright in their leadership, actions, words, and thoughts.

#### **Family Activity: Quiz Mom and/or Dad (Kids must be able to read.)**

Have your kids take their Bibles and select a verse from one of the following five books of the Bible: Deuteronomy, 2 Kings, Ecclesiastes, Luke, or Philippians. (No peeking mom and dad!) Have each of your children read three consecutive verses from anywhere in the book they selected. Parent(s) You must make an educated guess as to what book, chapter, and verse they read. If you got the book right, you get 1 point. If you get the book and chapter right, you get 3 points. If you get the book, chapter, and the verse you selected was in the range of verses that your child read, you get five points. If you miss all of them, your child(ren) gets 4 points. First to 12 points wins.

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### Bible in a Year

- Read 1 Chronicles 9
- Read 1 Chronicles 10

## March 6 Shepherding Notes – Isaiah 5

By Caleb Bunch

I want you to think of a love song. Perhaps the song that came to mind is the one you danced to at your wedding? Or maybe you are one of the lucky few who have had a love song written for you. There are literally millions of love songs to choose from. Although I don't have any way of knowing exactly which song you would select, I do have some assumptions about it. My guess is that the song in your mind does not end by calling on armies from foreign lands to come and mutilate and torment and nearly destroy the one you love. Isaiah 5 is a love song from God to Israel and Judah. But as this song is being sung, you are going to hear that wherever there is a melody of love, there is always a harmony of correction.

### God Planted a Good Vineyard

The Israelites were masters of viticulture. They knew exactly how to produce the ideal crops. They would have well understood when God declares that He had done everything necessary to produce a crop of righteousness. He had cleared the land of enemies before them, just as a planter must remove stones. He had built up defenses for Israel with their natural borders and fortified cities that had been inherited from their conquest. Just as a vineyard needs water to live, God had provided them with His own Word. He delivered to them divine self-revelation. They had everything necessary to produce an abundant crop of God-centered worship. The Lord had set them up for generations of righteousness to be lived out before the world.

### It Produced Bad Fruit

Uncultivated fruit is sour and off-putting. Although God had given Judah everything that they needed to thrive and bear fruit, but instead they produced wickedness. Perhaps you have heard Matthew 23 called the chapter of 7 woes as Jesus spoke out against the Pharisees. Many scholars believe that Jesus was drawing on the six woes listed here in Isaiah 5. But, where Jesus highlighted the internal heart of sinners, our chapter today details external actions like drunkenness and injustice. Perhaps the most famous of these woes is found in verse 20, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"

### God Planted a Good Vine

Have you ever noticed that only one of the 'I Am' statements of Jesus have the qualifier, "true" in front of it? "I am the TRUE vine, and my Father is the vinedresser." Jesus is distinguishing Himself as the fulfillment of all the promises of Israel. God went to that same hill and planted a true vine. One that would never produce wild grapes. One that would instead always produce righteousness. Just as Jesus is the true and better Adam, He is also the true and better Israel. He stands as a representative of that nation. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is able to enjoy all of the privileges and promises of the people of God.

### How Can We Bear Good Fruit?

John 15:4-5 teaches us not only that we are supposed to bear fruit, but how to do it. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." If you are not a Christian, no amount of self-help or individual effort will ever change you. You will not produce godly thoughts and godly character unless you first come to the Lord for salvation. For those who truly belong to

Jesus, you will grow to be abundantly fruitful as you abide in Him. Abiding simply means remaining in Him. The idea is to delight in Him to such an extent that you enjoy carrying out His will.

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## March 6 - Family Worship

### Read Exodus 5

Discussion Questions:

- How did Pharaoh make the work harder for the Hebrew slaves? (He forced them to make bricks without all of the necessary materials. The Israelites had to go and gather the straw all by themselves, doubling their workload.) Why did the taskmasters say they were doing this to the Hebrews? (They said that the Hebrews were being 'idle' or 'lazy' by asking to go worship God.)
- How did the Hebrew slaves respond to Moses and Aaron after this heavy burden of extra work was placed on them? (They were mad at Moses and Aaron and said, "The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.")
- Read vs. 22-23 again. What does Moses' prayer reveal about Moses' expectations? (He must have thought that God was going to deliver the people right away with no pushback from Pharaoh.) What does this prayer reveal about Moses' faith? (Moses trusted God's promise to deliver the people, but his faith seems to have been shaken when God didn't work on Moses' timetable and as quickly as Moses expected.) Has your faith ever been shaken when God did not answer prayer the way you wanted, or when circumstances didn't go the way you expected?

Song: [Here is Love Vast as the Ocean](#)

**Prayer Focus:** Pray for your pastors/elders to be faithful in all of their commitments and responsibilities.

### **Family Activity:** 'Bible Charades'

You can make two teams if you have enough people, but don't need to do so. One person at a time selects a Bible story at random and attempts to act it out silently. The others will have to guess which Bible story is being enacted. If playing on teams, the team to guess first gets a point. If not playing with teams, the individual who guesses first gets a point. Play to desired score.

## Bible in a Year

- Read 1 Chronicles 11
- Read 1 Chronicles 12



## March 7 Shepherding Notes – Isaiah 6

By Caleb Bunch

There is a subtle but genuine danger when you read a familiar text. Isaiah 6 is either the first or second most well-known portion of this book. It is designed to bring you to a point of awestruck wonder and astonishment at the magnificence of God. Don't let your familiarity allow you to miss the grandeur of God in these words.

### The Context

The introduction to this chapter informs us that the vision of Isaiah occurred in the year that King Uzziah died. This is much more than just a historical marker to identify the date. Uzziah's death correlates directly to Isaiah's experience. Uzziah was a king in Judah for 52 years. Scripture tells us that he started off well as a king. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Amaziah had done. He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success." (2 Chron. 26:4-5) But Uzziah did not always walk uprightly. 11 verses later we read, "But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the Lord his God and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense." (2 Chron. 26:16) Uzziah lost his awe of God. He had no reverential fear, so he disobeyed and marched into the temple to burn incense. He sought to bypass the priests who were to mediate on his behalf. And the Lord caused leprosy to break out on his forehead in the presence of all the priests. And he could no longer rule because he was required to live in a home in the countryside. Soon after, he died of his disease. Now Isaiah was caught up into the heavenly temple and was immediately aware that he had no business being in that room. He knew that he was unworthy because of his sin.

### The Christ

There are several notes about the trappings of the heavenly throne room. But all of them, even the angels, are all pointing at one thing: the King who is "holy, holy, holy." In the Hebrew language, there is no greater way to emphasize something than to repeat it. This is not only a way to grab attention, but also a way to magnify the weight and significance of something. Kent Hughes explains this well in his commentary on Isaiah when he says, "It isn't 1 + 1 + 1. It is perfection x perfection x perfection. The holiness of God distinguishes Him absolutely, even from sinless angels. His holiness is simply His God-ness in all of His attributes, works, and ways. He is not just holy. He is holy, holy, holy: each word boosting the force of the previous one exponentially." You will find no other place in the Bible where this three-fold repetition occurs. This is God's way of helping you to notice that this is of extreme importance. Holiness is not one of God's attributes. It is the essence of His being that permeates and defines all of His other attributes. He loves with a Holy love. He pours out wrath with Holy justice. He is holy. He is in a completely different category than anything else in creation, visible or invisible.

As Isaiah was looking into something more intense than the sun at point-blank range, the entire room began to shake. Verse 4 says, "And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke." Heaven itself cannot contain or withstand the voice of the King. When He speaks, the strongest parts of that heavenly temple are quaking and the places that appear unmovable are shaken to their core.

And who is this King of Glory? Consider Jesus' conversation with the Pharisees in John 12. Jesus quotes part of this chapter to the Pharisees to reveal their hard hearts. It is then that John adds this little editorial atom bomb into the mix. John writes, "Isaiah said these things because he saw his [Jesus'] glory and spoke of him [Jesus]." (John 12:41) Isaiah 6 is revealing the preincarnate Jesus Christ.

### The Cure

As Isaiah stood in the presence of the Lord, he was devastated. Last week we covered the chapter of six woes. Here is the seventh. Woe is me! Isaiah cried. He is screaming out that he is lost. If he could have ended his own existence at that moment, he would have done so without hesitation. But why? Because he was a sinner in the presence of a holy, holy, holy God. Isaiah singles out his lips, probably a reference to dishonest, careless, and possibly even blasphemous language. And by dwelling amongst it, the text suggests that he lived in approval of it, either by cheering it, or by refusing to stop it.

If you are a Christian, then you should identify with Isaiah very easily. If you are saved, then at some point in your life you had this kind of moment where you realized that you were immeasurably unworthy of God's love and that you deserve to be punished eternally for your sins. That is the terror of conviction that was eviscerating Isaiah's conscience in that moment. And the thing is, Isaiah was right. He did deserve to die. He had no business being there. But God was merciful to Isaiah. He had an angel purify his lips.

This is bizarre. Not just because kissing a burning coal would normally hinder your speech for a good long while, but Isaiah seems unharmed. It is more wild that this was a picture to display that Isaiah's guilt had been washed away. The coal burned away his guilt, and atoned for his sin. But the process cost Isaiah nothing, and it was completely painless. There was nothing he could do to pay for the sins. Someone else had to fix it for him. We know on this side of the cross exactly what it is that atoned for him. A hot coal cannot atone for sin. Hebrews 9:22 clearly states that, "without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins." Jesus was able to forgive Isaiah and cleanse him from his sins because Jesus Himself would one day pay for those sins at the cross.

### The Commissioning

The Lord does not need anyone to speak for Him. However, He gives us the great honor of serving as heralds proclaiming his glory in our context. And in this case, Jesus was raising up a prophet to warn and condemn the people of Judah. Notice the immediate response of Isaiah. "Here I am! Send me." Let me ask you, is this the cry of your heart? Or is your heart saying, "Please Lord, send someone else." Is the Lord leading you to serve in the nursery? "Send me!" Is He calling you to the mission field in Indonesia? "SEND ME!" Is there a person in your life who you know needs to hear the gospel? "SEND ME!" Be in Awe of Jesus the King. Be in Awe not only of His holiness, but of His servanthood. Lift your eyes to the one who atoned for you. And may the cry of your heart also always be, "Here and I, send me."

## March 7 - Family Worship

### Read Exodus 6

#### Discussion Questions:

- What do you think it means in verse 5 when God says that He “remembered His covenant?” Does God ever forget? (No, God does not forget. This statement means that God was getting ready to fulfill the promises that He had made many years before. His “remembering” mean that He is ready to act on something that He guaranteed He would do.)
- How did the Hebrew people respond to Moses and Aaron when they were told that God was going to deliver them? (They didn’t believe it.) Why not? (“...because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.”)
- Things don’t seem to be going very well for Moses and Aaron so far. They came to Egypt to deliver the people, but so far Pharaoh has just made life more difficult for the Hebrew slaves. Do you think that there was ever any danger of God not keeping His Word? Why or why not? How is God going to show that He is powerful enough to deliver from Egypt in the next few chapters? (Plagues galore.) How has God shown Himself powerful to save sinners like you and me? (Through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Parents, share the gospel with your kids.)

Song: [Good and Gracious King](#)

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that your pastors / elders will preach and teach the Word of God accurately, clearly, effectively, passionately, compassionately, and thoroughly.

**Family Activity:** Vocabulary Challenge

This week is a review week – Last learned in week 3

**Starting from the youngest to the oldest, see who can accurately define the following words:**

- **Shalom:** Hebrew word for ‘peace.’
- **Doctrine:** Teaching – We use it to speak of the collective teachings of the Bible.
- **Priest:** Someone who communicates to God on behalf of the people
- **Prophet:** Someone who speaks to the people on behalf of God

### Bible in a Year

- Read Isaiah 7
- Read Isaiah 8

## March 8 Shepherding Notes – Isaiah 9

By Caleb Bunch

This chapter contains some of the clearest prophecy of the nature of the coming Messiah in the entire Old Testament. First He is called “Wonderful Counselor” - When Jesus spoke, His words were different than anyone else’s in history. Even uneducated and unregenerate people could recognize that every word from His lips were unique. As a twelve-year-old, His parents found Him in the temple instructing the religious scholars about the Scriptures. At the sound of His voice, the wind and waves ceased their clamoring, and fruitless tree shriveled and died. At His command people were healed with a sentence that could be uttered in a single breath, even from great distances. With a simple command, He cast out a legion of demons from a man. In John 7:46, the crowds rightly announced, “No one ever spoke like this man!” His words were not just eloquent, they rang true with the power and authority of God Himself. Then, in John 6:68 when Jesus asked the twelve if they were going to leave Him, Peter replied, “Where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life.” His counsel is wonderful because He spoke the words of life.

And just in case there was any ambiguity about the divine nature of this promised Messiah, God clarifies through Isaiah that this light would be God Himself. His name is to be called “Mighty God.” The word mighty that is used here in Hebrews means divine hero - conqueror - champion. Make no mistake, God would not use this title for a man. This is one of the clearest prophetic declarations that God the Son would be stepping down from His throne to show Himself mighty here on earth. And Jesus certainly is Mighty God. When death came for Him, it exhausted every ounce of its power and still fell short. Acts 2:24, “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” He is powerful enough to overthrow the curse of sin. He is powerful enough to resist temptation. He is powerful enough to overcome our sinful hearts. What a Mighty God!

But Jesus is also called the Everlasting Father - This one certainly has become the most confusing for some folks. How is Jesus, the Son of God, being referred to as father? This would be better translated as the Father of Eternity. If that is the case, it is referring to the eternality of Jesus, that He has always existed in perfect union with the Father. John 1:1-3 highlights his eternal existence this way, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **He was in the beginning with God.** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

And lastly, Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. Jesus did not show up in Jerusalem with an army to fight off the Romans. He did not operate as a warmongering despot, but a gentle unifier. Not a brutal tyrant who makes “peace” by force, but a meek shepherd who reconciles us to God by His own suffering. the gospel teaches us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Colossians 1:20 tells us that Jesus came “to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” In John 16:33 Jesus said, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.”

## March 8 - Family Worship

### Read Exodus 7

#### Discussion Questions:

- What happened to Aaron's staff when he threw it on the ground? (It turned into a serpent.) What did the priests of Pharaoh do? (They also cast their staffs onto the ground, and they also were able to turn them into serpents.) How did God reveal that His power was greater than the priests of Pharaoh? (Aaron's staff-turned-snake ate the others.)
- Look at verse 13 again. What happened to Pharaoh's heart? (It was hardened.) What does that mean? (It means that God gave Pharaoh over to do exactly what Pharaoh wanted to do. Pharaoh completely rejected God's command with a stone-cold rebellion.)
- Why is it such a big deal that the Nile turned to blood? (The Nile is literally the lifeline of Egypt. If you can, look at a modern day map of Egypt and notice that the only green places are directly along the Nile. To this day, almost everyone who lives in Egypt lives in a long, straight line right next to the Nile. That river was the source of their food through fishing. It was the source of the water for their plants and for drinking. It was where their animals would be watered. When it turned to blood, everyone's lives and livelihoods were put in danger. This miracle would have gained the attention of every single person in Egypt.)
- The priest of Pharaoh were also able to turn water into blood by way of their demonic arts. But, did you notice what they were not able to do? (They were not able to turn the blood back into water! That would have been much more helpful to the Egyptians. Once again, God was showing that He is far more powerful than them.)

Song: [Christ the True and Better](#)

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that your pastors / elders will grow even more to love the flock of God at your local church.

#### **Family Activity:** Memory Verse Challenge

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

– 1 Timothy 1:15

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### Bible in a Year

- Read Isaiah 10
- Read Isaiah 11

## Shepherding Notes Track

- Read Job 17

### Family Worship

#### **Read Proverbs 10**

- What do you think verse 12 means?
- What does verse 19 teach us about the dangers of our words?

#### **Prayer Focuses:**

Christlikeness – (Sample – Lord, please cause me identify any sin in my life and repent so that I can walk in the light as you are in the light.)

Tomorrow's Church Service – (Sample – Lord, please prepare my heart to hear your Word so that I will be convicted and encouraged.)

**Family Activity:** Quiz over this week's reading: (Points are for fun. Use them if they are helpful, discard them if not. (answers on the reverse side of this page.)

10 Points – What was unusual about the burning bush that caught Moses' attention?

50 Points – What sacred name did God reveal to Moses at the burning bush?

20 Points – What happened to Moses' hand when he put it into his cloak (at the burning bush)?

20 Points – What excuse did Moses give for not wanting to go back to Egypt?

10 Points – How did Pharaoh make the Hebrew slave's work more difficult?

50 Points – How old was Moses when he told Pharaoh to let God's people go?

20 Points – What happened when Aaron threw his staff onto the ground?

30 Points – How did God show that He was more powerful than the priests of Pharaoh through the miracle of the serpent-staff?

30 Points – Not only did the Nile turn to blood, but God also told Aaron to turn what else into blood? Name at least 3 things.

100 Points – Super bonus question for those who know their Bible's really, really well: Can you name the two priests of Pharaoh?

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### Bible in a Year

- Read Isaiah 12
- Read Isaiah 13

## Answers Key:

10 Points – What was unusual about the burning bush that caught Moses' attention?  
(The bush was not consumed.)

50 Points – What sacred name did God reveal to Moses at the burning bush?  
(I Am Who I Am)

20 Points – What happened to Moses' hand when he put it into his cloak (at the burning bush)?  
(It became leprosy until he put it back into his cloak and the leprosy disappeared.)

20 Points – What excuse did Moses give for not wanting to go back to Egypt?  
(Not eloquent, and slow of speech.)

10 Points – How did Pharaoh make the Hebrew slave's work more difficult?  
(Forced them to make bricks without straw.)

50 Points – How old was Moses when he told Pharaoh to let God's people go?  
(80 Years Old)

20 Points – What happened when Aaron threw his staff onto the ground?  
(It became a serpent.)

30 Points – How did God show that He was more powerful than the priests of Pharaoh through the miracle of the serpent-staff?  
(Aaron's staff at the others.)

30 Points – Not only did the Nile turn to blood, but God also told Aaron to turn what else into blood? Name at least 3 things.  
(Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.)

100 Points – Super bonus question for those who know their Bible's really, really well: Can you name the two priests of Pharaoh?  
(Jannes and Jambres – 2 Timothy 3:8)

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