Sunday School Lesson
TOPIC: “The Branch and His Reign of Peace”
Isaiah 11:1-10

VERSE DISCOVERY: Isaiah 11:1-10 (KJV, Public Domain)

Prepare

- Isaiah is the prophet of today’s lesson. What are some things the Bible reveals about Isaiah and his calling? Review Isaiah 6 to familiarize yourself with his original calling.

- Review chapters 7-10, wherein are many Messianic prophesies pointing to Jesus Christ. Using information found on online or in a good study Bible (helpful link available on wordforlifesays.com), chart some of Isaiah’s prophecies concerning Christ. In that you will note, Isaiah prophesied not only about Jesus’ birth and His first coming, but he also prophesied about His second coming, as we see in today’s lesson.

- Leading into this lesson, share with younger students a short video describing the prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-9 (visit wordforlifesays.com for the link to the video).

- For adults, simply compare stories and events found in a recent paper or current news events found online to what Isaiah speaks of concerning the future. How many of those events promote the true idea of peace? How many of those leaders promote a righteous rule? Please Note: This is not a time for arguments or offensively engaging in political this and that. This is just a means of comparison. And, in that comparison, just as with the leaders and times we see in the Bible, none will ever match up, no matter how good they seem, with the Branch and His reign of peace in that day.

Explore – Full Lesson Available on pages 5-12

Verses 1-5

Peace is not in allusive dream. At least, not for those who have attached themselves to God through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, whom we find out in today’s lesson, is that prophesied Branch of old.

As Isaiah was often the spokesman of doom and gloom, he was also privileged with the opportunity of being a carrier of the promises of God for good for a people who needed to hear the message and inspiration of hope. Assyria, that nation of terror would come against God’s people as a form of punishment for turning away from Him. But that will not be their total end.
Although at times, their lives and the nation may appear to be without hope, hope was on the horizon, and He would rise as the symbol of the Branch (Show children a picture of a plant shoot coming from a stump or refer to the video in the **Prepare** section of this lesson. Explain how it relates to David’s family line and how Jesus was going to be that shoot, or Branch, that would come from that line to reign forever (another idea would be to do an internet search of pictures of Jesus’ family tree as a reference tool – make sure it includes David and Jesse). Also, give them a teaser about a special project they get to help with when we get to the **Activities** portion of the lesson)

This Branch would be righteous in His reign and operate fully in the Spirit of God (Ask students if they can tell you what it means to be truly righteous. After listening to their answers fill them in on how Jesus fulfills that requirement (sample verses of reference may include 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15). He will be faithful in all His judgements and He will gain the victory over the wicked.

**Verses 6-10**

When He secures that victory, peace will reign as we have never experienced before, at least, not since the time of Eden before sin entered the world. The peace that is ushered in at the reign of the Branch will cause the impossible to be possible. Animals and people, who normally live at odds with one another will become companions in creation (Either show different pictures of the animals mentioned and put them together as “best friends” or again, refer to the previous video).

The peace we get to enjoy at His reign will not be one we have to struggle or fight for. His peace will be perfect and centered around who He is. With sin and evil being done away with, full restoration and healing will come, and nations everywhere will be drawn to the Branch, the banner, the ensign raised, inviting all who would have Him; all who have accepted Him, to come to the place of His rest and enjoy His reign of peace.

**Activities**

- Better days are coming! That’s the focus of the **Adult Journal Page** available on wordforlifesays.com. Days of peace when Christ’s reign will overshadow all the hurt and disappointment we may face today. Using that journal page, write down inspirational sources to encourage you when you need to be reassured during the wait. The **Kid’s Journal Page** explores the signs of peace that will be evident when animals and people get along like they did back in Eden. Children can explore and note these sings of peace or you can use **blank journal pages** to bring out specific ideas you have about the lesson.
Younger students can draw pictures describing the things Isaiah saw and spoke of in his prophecy using the **Draw the Scene** sheet found on wordforlifesays.com.

Young students can make sprouts or “branches” to demonstrate the lesson today. Using the tops of carrots placed in water, students can see how new growth can come out of a carrot that has been cut and used, just like today’s lesson (for clearer directions follow the link found on wordforlifesays.com to a wonderful site that shows several ways of doing this). When they return to class the following week there should be obvious signs of new growth. Another way of demonstrating this is by using beans to sprout with wet paper towels and a plastic baggie, but the carrot activity falls more in line visually and demonstration wise the point we are trying to get across in the lesson today.

Alternate activity sheets available for those who just want to work with printed activities found on wordforlifesays.com.

Students can also put together a Jesus family tree or genealogy craft (link to one found on wordforlifesays.com).

**Review**

- Commit to memory the base verse from the lesson: “**And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:**” Isaiah 11:1
- Fill out the review sheet provided (page 13)
- Prepare questions from today’s lesson and use a Tic-Tac-Toe board (drawn on a board) for a fun way to review the information from today’s lesson.

**Life**

Throughout this week find one song or verse that honors the reign of Christ. Meditate on it and let it be a source of inspiration when dealing with difficult things, and peace seems to be a far-off notion.
VERSE DISCOVERY: Isaiah 11:1-10 (KJV, Public Domain)

The current situation of our culture and world is far removed from the idyllic picture of peace the prophet Isaiah foretold of in the verses covering the latter part of this lesson. Just turning on the news in the morning spouts stories of evil, hatred, gossip, destruction, and lives torn apart due to the ravages of sin in this world.

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if it were different? What if we lived in a time when peace prevailed and our relationship with God was uninterrupted by sin? There once was a time like that. It was during the period of innocence with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

As we are continually dealing with the evils around us today, you too may have wondered for a time when the world knew nothing but the peace of God. The good news is we have a renewal and restoration of such a time coming in our future. For the people of God, one day we will be introduced to a world devoid of the hatred and sin we have become so accustomed to when our Savior, the prophesied Branch, comes back and takes His reign.

In the chapter before today’s text, where people are hearing such words as “Oh Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation,” Isaiah 10:5, there needed to be a measure of hope for the people to look forward to. When God’s warnings go unheeded, He does what He must do to direct the hearts of sinful people back to Him. God then sends them a promise of a remnant (Isaiah 10:20-23) and tells them, “Be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee . . .” (Isaiah 10:24). It was going to get rough for the people and they would suffer punishment, but the promise was still up ahead for something so much more wonderful.

Have no fear, for those same instruments He uses, He will judge due to their own pride (see Isaiah 10:15-16; 33-34). “He shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon
shall fall by a mighty one,” (Isaiah 10:34). But, for God’s people there is the promise of new growth that will arise and be a beacon of hope, ushering in peace unimaginable.

Isaiah then paints a beautiful picture for them and us to hold onto in chapter 11 (today’s text). This world and all its trappings, fighting, and sin will not have the final say. What’s up ahead is so much more glorious. Just wait for the return of the Branch at His reign.

**THE BRANCH**

Isaiah 11:1-2 “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And 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;”

Isaiah, the first of the Major Prophets and the author of this book, is known and called by many today as “the eagle eye prophet” for his ability to foresee the birth of Christ some 700 years before it occurred. Though much of his ministry was filled with rebuke and warnings to God’s people over their wicked ways, he was also able to encourage them through what the Lord allowed him to see in their future.

Some of the visions he saw went even beyond the birth of Christ into His future reign at His second coming. This is magnificent when you think about it. This prophet was allowed to see the first and second coming of our Savior King. And, what he saw in correlation to the second coming was mind-blowing. For those who are tired of the troubles of this world, there is a greater story up ahead and it starts with a glimpse of the past.

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” This verse and those following we identify as the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. As many Bible students are aware, Jesse is the father of King David. Why is that significant? The fact is God gave David a promise through the prophet Nathan saying, “Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever,” (2 Samuel 7:16).

Although David and his descendants died and passed off the scene and saw corruption, there would still be a sprout that will grow from the roots of this family to secure that seat on that
The Branch and His Reign of Peace

thronethat shall be established forever. There will be one who springs up from this royal
lineage that will not see corruption, but rather reignforever (Acts 13:37). And, His name is
Jesus.

Of Him it was spoken of, “He shall be great, and shall be called theSon of the Highest: and the
Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house
of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end,” (Luke 1:32-33). From the
beginning to the end of His life Jesus was fulfilling the promise of this forever kingdom rule. He
is that prophesied rod and Branch Isaiah foretells of.

If you have ever cut back some plants and placed them in water and tend to them, they begin
to grow roots and sprout new life to them. A new and better life has always been God’s desire
for His people which is why it was so important that they learn about this promised Branch and
cleave to the hope of peacefound in Him. Prophesying of this Branch was not only something
Isaiah foretold of but Jeremiah as well.

Jeremiah 23:5, supporting the imagery found in Isaiah, also prophesies of Christ as the Branch
from David: “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous
Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the
earth,” (see also Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 33:17).

One more note on our Branch description of Jesus to solidify He is the fulfiller of these
prophesies. After His birth, His parents had to flee Bethlehem for fear of Him being killed by
Herod. This landed them in Egypt. When it was time for Him to be safely returned to the area,
God spoke to Joseph in a dream instructing him on what to do next. In Matthew 2:23 these
directions led them to Nazareth. This was very important because as it reads: “And
he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by
the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” That word “Nazarene” is “nezer” or “netzer” in Hebrew which
means “branch.” The Bible could not be any clearer on who this true Branch is: Jesus Christ.

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.” The Branch is full of God’s Spirit. When
John the Baptist baptized Jesus it was evident that this was the Son of God by a sign that was
given him. John 1:32-34 says, “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from
heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize
with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending,
remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”

PLEASE NOTE: Jesus did not “get” the Spirit at the time of His baptism. Jesus has always been fully God, meaning, fully endowed with the Spirit, and fully man at the same time.

Anything done for God must be done through the Spirit. Isaiah 42:1 also shows and prophesies, “I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment unto the Gentiles.” Here in today’s text, we see He is empowered by the same Spirit authoritatively, justly, and perfectly to function in areas where normal man is limited by the finiteness of his humanity. He will have “the spirit of wisdom and understanding . . . counsel and might . . . knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

These functions allow Him to be the ultimate righteous judge we see figured in the next few verses.

PLEASE NOTE: When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He quoted from Isaiah 61:1-2 which begins with the words, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me…”, and declared the same prophecy spoken therein was speaking of Him (see Luke 4:17-19).

Isaiah 11:3-5 “And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

The term “quick understanding in the fear of the LORD” simply means He justly and obediently operates and follow’s His life course to please the heavenly Father. His life is as an aromatic offering of Himself.

“He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.” One of the strongest things that condemn or acquit a person in our judicial system is evidence; the stuff that people see and hear that prove a case or not. We rely on this in order to have fair and unbiased proceedings. But, what if a situation comes where the evidence is just circumstantial and can’t really be trusted to condemn or not?

NOTES:
He, of whom this prophecy speaks of, will base His judgment on nothing other than “righteousness” which is the truest measure wherewith anything can be measured by. He will make sure those that are considered the least of all; those who are usually not able to defend themselves – He will make sure they will have a just, fair, and right outcome.

His righteousness is mandated by His holiness. His holiness and just judgment are directed by the power of the Spirit in and of Him which includes all those special areas as noted above: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord. He is completely empowered to discern, advise, and carry out His sovereign righteous reign.

“He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of lips shall he slay the wicked.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8 tells us, “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” No adversary, not even Satan himself, will be able to stand when the reigning Christ opens His mouth in judgment.

The Centurion, when Jesus was coming to his house to heal his servant, sent and said unto Him, “Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed,” (Luke 7:6-7; emphasis mine).

In that coming day, when Jesus cracks the sky and returns, He will but speak a word “and with the breath of lips shall he slay the wicked” (compare His powerful words to Hebrews 4:12). He will totally crush and destroy evil with the truth and right judgment that comes from His mouth. He that it is spoken of that came to “steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10) will ultimately face the same demise he tried to afflict on humanity.

“And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.” As a belt that holds up a garment, He that is coming will be wrapped in “righteousness and faithfulness.” What that means is all that He is, and all that He has, and all that He does is guarded and supported by some of the most precious qualities about Him: His righteousness which simply is to do that which is completely and perfectly right, just, and with the utmost integrity; and, His faithfulness which personifies His sure character of never failing and steadfastness.

NOTES:
Out of all the leaders throughout our history here on this earth and out of all the leaders we currently see in power or vying for position now, He is the only One empowered completely to reign right.

In other passages of Scripture we see, “The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself . . .” (Psalm 93:1), and “For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak,” (Isaiah 59:17). Our King is already now and will be then, dressed and ready to render proper justice in this world and no evil will be able to stand against His judgment.

**His Reign of Peace**

Isaiah 11:6-10 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”

Peace as we have never known before. An age that resembles the innocence of living in the garden with God once again as He originally designed. There’s a beauty here that can’t be missed. A place now where only our imagination can take us until that promise of hope is finally fulfilled in that day.

Once I wrote an article titled *Interruption of Peace*, expressing in it how the enemy comes to steal peace that God gives, yet peace is His divine promise and blessing to us. In it I talk about how peace is something that must be fought for; it’s about what we let dominate our lives (read article [www.wordforlifesays.com](http://www.wordforlifesays.com)). But, here’s the blessed thing of that coming future day – we don’t have to fight for this peace. We don’t have to struggle with the day to
day issues of life to lay hold of it. It is there. It is our promise. It is our hope. It is what He has already secured for us and at His reign, we will know it like we have never known it before.

PLEASE NOTE: We I speak of “at His reign” I am speaking of the future day of fulfillment when Jesus returns a second time to rule forevermore. Of course, as saints of God, we know that He is ruling even as we speak now. We are not diminishing that; rather we are magnifying the extraordinary event that will take place in that day when the Branch comes and solidifies His reign of peace. Oh, what a day that will be!

In that day, God’s creation will operate under a spirit of divine fellowship with one another as He originally created them to be. There is no top of the food chain or bottom of the food chain status to worry about. His peace; His righteousness will be felt by every being in nature and none shall be absent from the knowledge, the simple knowing, of who He is.

Animals that were at odds with one another, one hiding for fear of death and another seeking to satisfy a need to eat – it will all be done away with. These competitors become companions: “wolves with lambs, leopards with the kid, lion and the fatling – led by the direction of an innocent child.”

Even as fantastic as some childhood movies and books depict humans and animals living together in harmony, side by side, without fear of attack or being eaten [I happen to love those kinds of stories by the way], in most of those stories there are still elements that can cause fear, distrust, and anguish between the two.

In that coming day, none of that will exist. Only the companionship of simply being will matter. After all, who ever heard of “cows and bears” getting along or a “lion” that eats “straw like the ox?” Who would ever in this day of ours allow babes and toddlers (sucking child and weaned child) to play with snakes (asp and the cockatrice)?

His coming kingdom, at His perfect reign, the things which by nature seem impossible and unheard of now, will be possible then. The only characteristic there is summed up in one word: PEACE.

All sin and evil by then will have been done away with and full restoration will come to head. “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (compare wording to

NOTES:
Habakkuk 2:14). There is the absence of pain and tears. There is no more hardship and adversity. The things and wrong thinking that used to ravage humanity sending it on its downward spiral of sin – all of that is gone. It’s not in this future kingdom (see also Isaiah 2:4; 65:25; Hosea 2:18).

“The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” If you will allow me, I see the whole story of Creation, the whole history of man, and the whole of the promise that lays waiting for us in our future as being summed up in one word: GOD.

Psalms remind us, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God,” (90:2; see also Exodus 15:18 and Revelation 19:6). And, it is that same Sovereign rule of our holy Creator that every man and creature will respect and know of because of the very essence and knowledge of who He is penetrates the world as a whole thanks to the victory gained through that righteous Branch.

And, it won’t only be those of Israel who will be drawn to “his rest.” As He stands as an “ensign;” as a banner raised, even the “Gentiles” shall “seek” him.

The nations will be drawn to the source of their salvation. Jesus once taught Nicodemus, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life,” (John 3:14-15); whether they be Jew or “Gentile.” Jesus, the Branch, the “root of Jesse” was raised once on the cross when He died for the victory over our sins, and He will “stand for an ensign of the people” in that glorious day, declaring once and for all His victory and His reign of peace.
TOPIC: “The Branch and His Reign of Peace”

Isaiah 11:1-10

Please Answer the Review Questions Below

1. T or F. When the Branch comes, He will judge according to what He sees (Isaiah 11:3).

2. There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of __________ (Isaiah 11:1).
   A. David  B. Isaiah  C. Isaiah  D. Jesse

3. When the Branch comes, He will judge with righteousness. How does that encourage you today?

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4. What are some of the ways the working of the Spirit will be evident in the Branch (Isaiah 11:2)?

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5. The earth shall be full of the _________ of the LORD (Isaiah 11:9).
   A. Wisdom  B. Mercy  C. Knowledge  D. Peace

6. T or F. There will be no hurt when the Branch comes to reign (Isaiah 11:9).

7. Peace that is not evident in our current culture will be more than evident in that coming day. What part of that coming peace do you look forward to the most?

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