

# Open Bible Stories — God Promises the Messiah

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## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of God promising the Messiah teaches us how Jesus fulfills all the promises of the Old Testament as God's promised Messiah.

### Core Belief Verse

*“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

*Luke 24:27*

### God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God sent judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil and the kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile. After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

## **The Story: God Promises the Messiah**

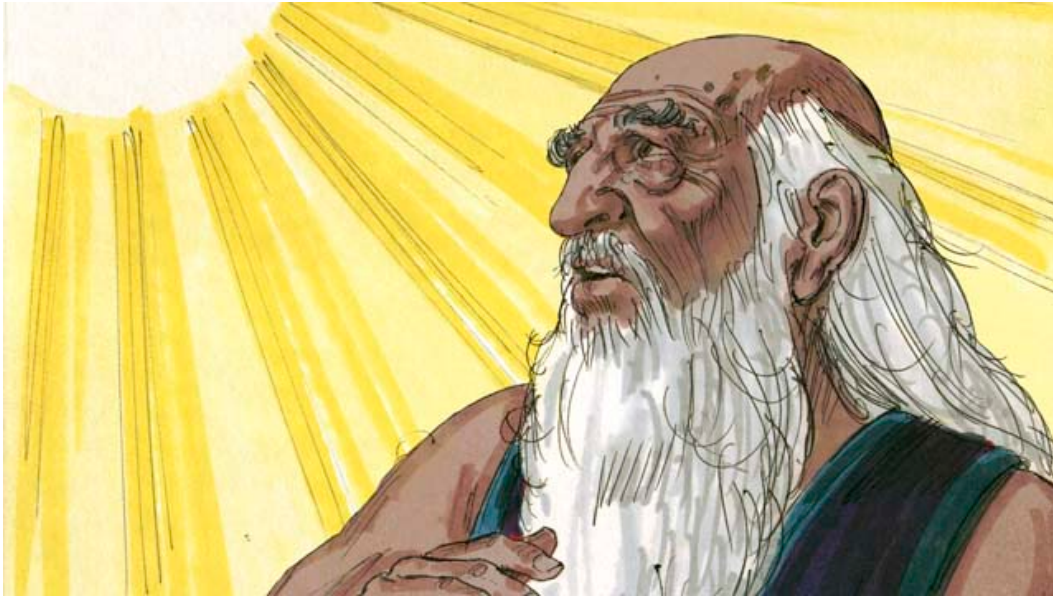
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21-01



Even when God created the world, he knew that he would send the Messiah at some time far later. He promised Adam and Eve that he would do this. He said that a descendant of Eve would be born who would crush the snake's head. Of course, Satan appeared as a snake in order to deceive Eve. God meant that the Messiah would defeat Satan completely.

21-02



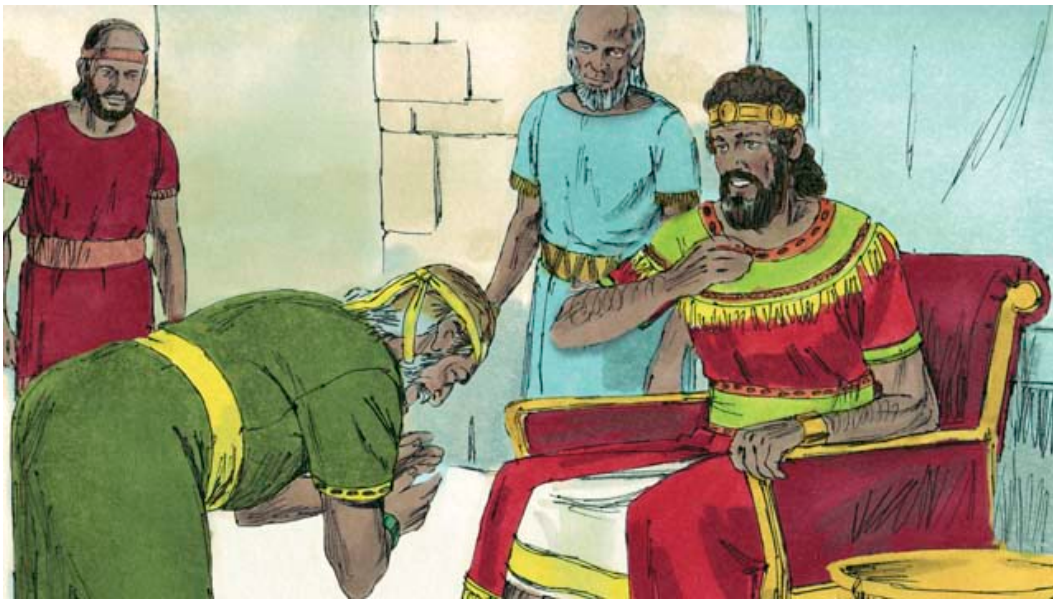
God promised Abraham that through him all people groups of the world would receive a blessing. God would fulfill this promise by sending the Messiah at some later time. The Messiah would save people from their sin out of every people group in the world.

21-03



God promised Moses that in the future he would send another prophet like Moses. This prophet would be the Messiah. In this way, God promised again that he would send the Messiah.

21-04



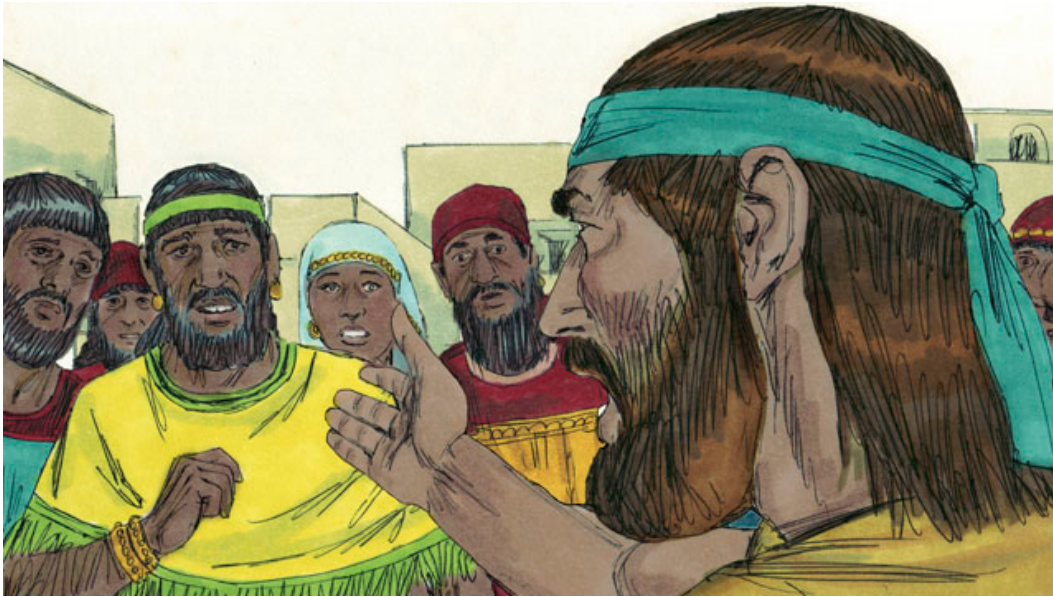
God promised King David that one of his own descendants would be the Messiah. He would be king and rule over God's people forever.

21-05



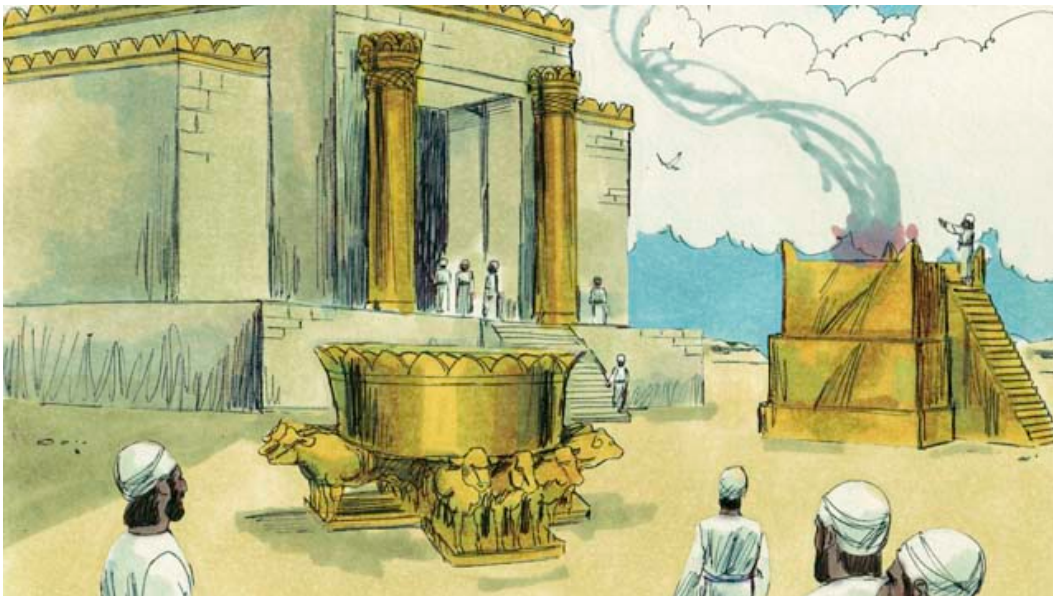
God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and told him that he would make a New Covenant one day. The New Covenant would not be like the old covenant God made with Israel at Sinai. When he would make his New Covenant with people, he would make them to know him personally. Each person would love him and want to obey his laws. God said this would be like writing his law on their hearts. They would be his people, and God would forgive their sins. It is the Messiah who would make the New Covenant with them.

21-06



God's prophets also said that the Messiah would be a prophet, a priest, and a king. A prophet is a person who hears the words of God and then proclaims God's messages to the people. The Messiah that God promised to send would be the perfect prophet. That is, the Messiah would hear God's messages perfectly, he would understand them perfectly, and he would teach them to people perfectly.

21-07



Israelite priests kept on making sacrifices to God for the people. These sacrifices were in place of God punishing the people for their sins. Priests also prayed to God for the people. However, the Messiah would be the perfect high priest who would offer himself as a perfect sacrifice to God. That is, he would never sin, and when he would give himself to be the sacrifice, no other sacrifice for sin would ever be necessary.

21-08



Kings and chiefs rule over groups of people, and sometimes they make mistakes. King David ruled over only the Israelites. But the Messiah, a descendant of David's, will rule over the whole world, and he will rule forever. Also, he will always rule justly and make the right decisions.

21-09



God's prophets said many other things about the Messiah. For example, Malachi said that another prophet would come before the Messiah came. That prophet would be very important. Also, the prophet Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. And the prophet Micah said that the Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

21-10



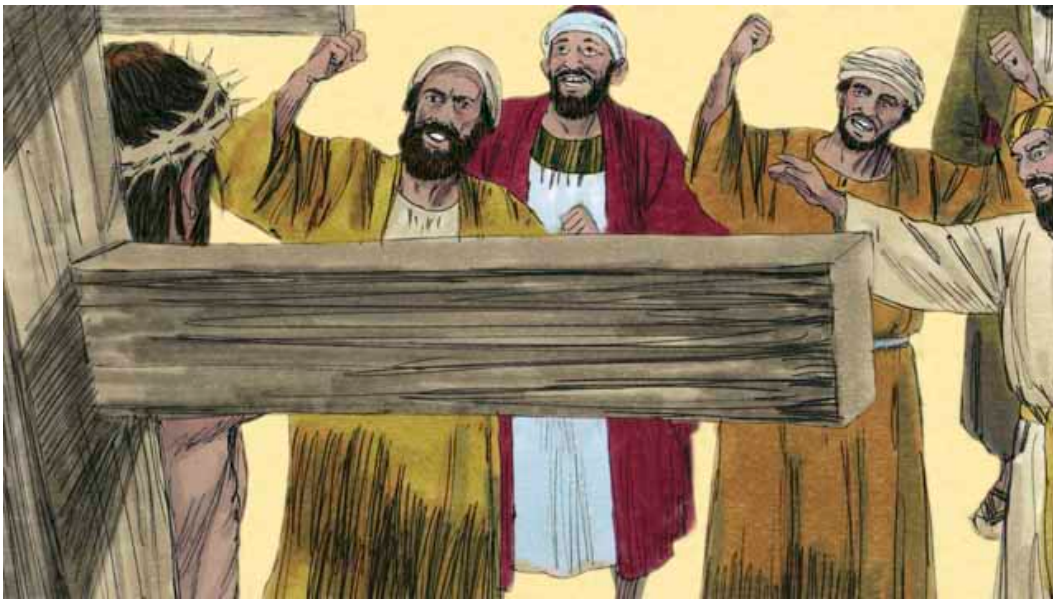
The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would live in the region of Galilee. The Messiah would comfort people who were very sad. He would also set prisoners free. The Messiah would also heal sick people and those who could not hear, see, speak, or walk.

21-11



The prophet Isaiah also said that people would hate the Messiah and refuse to accept him. Other prophets said that a friend of the Messiah would turn against him. The prophet Zechariah said that this friend would receive 30 silver coins from other people for doing this. Also, some prophets said that people would kill the Messiah, and that they would gamble for his clothes.

21-12



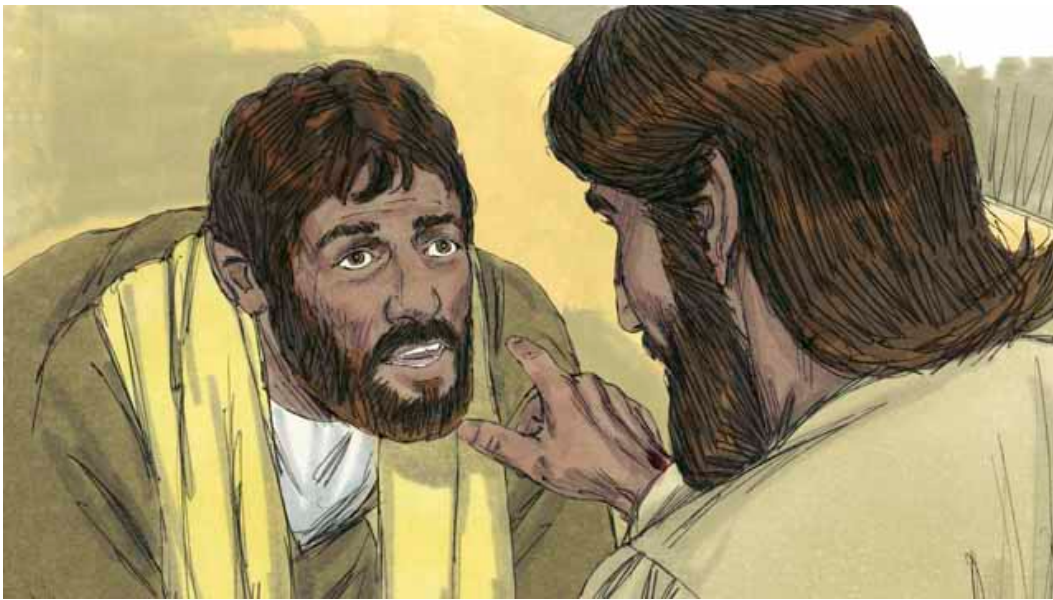
The prophets also told about how the Messiah would die. Isaiah prophesied that people would spit on, mock, and beat the Messiah. They would pierce him, and he would die in great suffering and agony, even though he had not done anything wrong.

21-13



The prophets also said that the Messiah would not sin. He would be perfect. But he would die because God would punish him for other people's sins. When he died, people would be able to have peace with God. This is why, in God's plan, the Messiah had to die.

21-14



The prophets also said that God would raise the Messiah from the dead. This shows that Jesus' death and resurrection was all God's plan to make the New Covenant, so he could save people who had sinned against him.

21-15



God revealed to the prophets many things about the Messiah, but the Messiah did not come during the time of any of those prophets. More than 400 years after the last of these prophecies was given, at exactly the right time, God sent the Messiah into the world.

*A Bible story from: Genesis 3; 12; Deuteronomy 18:15; 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 16; 22; 35; 69; 41; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 61; 53; 50:6; 59:16; Jeremiah 31; Daniel 7; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 11:12-13; Malachi 4:5*

## Community Study: An Important Practice—Forgiving One Another

- **Key Idea:** emphasizing the importance of forgiveness
- **Key Passage:** Matthew 18:21-35
- **Main Session:** OBS 21 (God Promises the Messiah)

### Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*"He of whom Moses wrote in the law, and the prophets, we have found him: Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth." John 1:45*

OR

*43 It is to him [Jesus] that all the prophets bear witness, so that everyone who believes in him shall receive forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:43*

### Read the Passage (5 minutes)

Even after we are saved, we will sin against others, and others will sin against us. God tells us to forgive others as he has forgiven us. In order to grow together as a united and one-minded community, read the passage below.

*21 Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Until seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not tell you seven times, but until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is similar to a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settling, one servant was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But since he had not the means to repay, his master commanded him to be sold, together with his wife and children and everything that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell down, bowed down before him, and said, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 So the master of that servant, since he was moved with compassion, released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him one hundred denarii. He grasped him, took him by the throat, and said, 'Pay me what you owe.' 29 But his fellow servant fell down and implored him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you.' 30 But the first servant refused.*

*Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he should pay him what he owed. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very upset. They came and told their master everything that had happened. 32 Then that servant's master called him, and said to him, 'You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you implored me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, even as I had mercy on you?' 34 His master was angry and handed him over to the torturers until he would pay all that was owed. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." Matthew 18:21-35*

**Explore the Idea** (10–15 minutes)

Forgiveness is a core teaching of the Christian faith. When people believe in Jesus, God forgives their sins. Then, Christians show forgiveness to others. After reading the passage above, use the following questions to help your community discuss what it means to practice Christian community in a godly way.

1. What does this passage teach us about the practice of forgiveness?
2. What does it mean to forgive someone? Why is it hard to forgive other people?
3. What happens to a group of people when they do not practice forgiveness?
4. How can you encourage members of your community to practice forgiveness as you work/serve together?

**Personal Reflection** (5–10 minutes)

Read the verse below. Reflect on whether you have any unresolved issues with others. That is, identify if there is someone you need to forgive but you have not yet done so. Pray that God would remove the bitterness and unforgiveness from your heart.

*Be careful so that no one lacks God's grace, and that no root of bitterness grows up to cause trouble, so that many do not become polluted by it. Hebrews 12:14*

**Reflect Privately in Prayer** (5 minutes)

Pray that God would reveal to you any person that you need to forgive. Ask God to give you clarity and strength to forgive that person of the sin they have committed against you.

**Sing a Song** (3–5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

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*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

#### **21-01**

When did God first decide to send the Messiah?

God decided this before he created the world.

What did God promise Adam and Eve?

God promised Adam and Eve that he would send the Messiah. God told them a descendant would come from Eve who would crush the snake's head.

What would the Messiah do to Satan?

The Messiah would defeat Satan completely.

#### **21-02**

What did God promise Abraham?

God promised Abraham that through him all the people groups of the world would receive a blessing.

Who would God send to fulfill his promise that all people groups will be blessed through Abraham?

God would send the Messiah.

What would the Messiah do?

The Messiah would save people from their sin out of every people group in the world.

#### **21-03**

What did God promise Moses?

God promised Moses that in the future he would send another prophet like Moses.

In what way would the Messiah be like Moses?

The Messiah would be a prophet like Moses.

#### **21-04**

What did God promise King David?

God promised King David that one of his own descendants would be the Messiah.

What would the Messiah do?

The Messiah would be one of David's descendants and would rule over God's people as king forever.

### **21-05**

What did God promise Jeremiah?

God told Jeremiah that he would one day make a New Covenant with his people.

How would the New Covenant be different from the Old Covenant made at Sinai?

In the New Covenant, people would know God personally, people would love God and obey his laws, God would write his laws on their hearts, they would be God's people, and God would forgive their sins.

Who would bring the New Covenant?

The Messiah would make the New Covenant with God's people.

### **21-06**

What did the prophets say about the Messiah?

The prophets said that the Messiah would be a prophet, priest, and king.

What do prophets do?

Prophets hear the words of God and proclaim God's messages to his people.

How would the Messiah be the perfect prophet?

The Messiah would hear God's messages perfectly, understand them perfectly, and teach them perfectly.

### **21-07**

Why did priests do?

Priests offered sacrifices to God so God's people did not get punished for their sin. Priests prayed to God for the people.

How would the Messiah be the perfect high priest?

The Messiah would offer himself as a perfect sacrifice to God on behalf of the people. No other sacrifice would be necessary because the Messiah was perfect, he never sinned.

### **21-08**

What did kings do?

Like King David, kings rule over groups of people.

How would the Messiah be the perfect king?

The Messiah would reign over the whole world forever, rule justly, and make the right decisions.

### **21-09**

Who did the prophets say would come before the Messiah?

The prophet Malachi said that another important prophet would come before the Messiah came.

Who did the prophets say would give birth to the Messiah?

The prophet Isaiah said that the Messiah would be born of a virgin.

Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?

The prophet Micah said that the Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

### **21-10**

Where did the prophets say the Messiah would live?

The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would live in the region of Galilee.

What would the Messiah be like?

The Messiah would comfort people who were sad, set prisoners free, heal the sick, and heal the deaf, blind, mute, and lame.

### **21-11**

What did the prophets say about how people would treat the Messiah?

The prophet Isaiah people would hate the Messiah and refuse to accept him.

What did the prophets say about the Messiah being betrayed?

The prophet Zechariah said that a friend of the Messiah would get paid 30 pieces of silver to turn against (betray) Jesus.

What would happen when the Messiah died?

The prophets said that people would kill the Messiah, and that they would gamble for his clothes.

### **21-12**

According to the prophets, how would the Messiah die?

The Messiah would be mistreated and pierced, and would die in great suffering.

Did the Messiah do anything wrong to deserve death?

No. The Messiah did not do anything wrong. The Messiah died so that he could save his people from their sin.

### 21-13

In God's plan, why did the Messiah have to die?

The Messiah, being perfect, would die so that God could punish him for the people's sin so they could have peace with God.

### 21-14

What happened to the Messiah after he died?

The prophets also said that God would raise the Messiah from the dead.

What would God accomplish through the death and resurrection of the Messiah?

God would start the New Covenant and save people who had sinned against him.

### 21-15

Did the Messiah come during the time of the prophets?

No. The Messiah did not come during the time of the prophets.

How much time passed between the last prophecy about the Messiah and his coming into the world?

More than 400 years had passed.

How right was the time when God sent the Messiah into the world?

God sent the Messiah into the world at exactly the right time.

## Movement 2: Theological Questions

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### What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How did God prepare people for the coming of the Messiah? What did God tell various people who lived in the Old Covenant about the Messiah?
2. What is the New Covenant and why is it so important for how God relates to his people? What does this story tell us about the New Covenant?
3. How is the Messiah the perfect prophet, perfect priest, and perfect king? What does this story tell us about what the Messiah is like?
4. How did the Messiah come into the world and what did he do to rescue people? What does this story tell us about all that the Messiah did to save people from sin?

## Movement 3: Live It Out

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### Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

1. What are some of the things that the Messiah has done that brings you greatest joy?
2. How have you experienced the blessings of the New Covenant?
3. What new convictions do you have about what the Messiah came to do and why his work is so important to fulfill God's plan?
4. Think about this week. Where does "God Promises the Messiah" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of God promising the Messiah teaches us how Jesus fulfills all the promises of the Old Testament as God's promised Messiah.

## Movement 4: Retell the Story

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*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "God Promises the Messiah" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

## Movement 5: Share It

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*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "God Promises the Messiah" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

### **Mission Engagement**

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.