

# Jesus' Birth through the Eyes of Isaiah:

## Newsroom Interview worksheets

*Written by Carol Hulbert for First United Methodist Church to accompany the lesson plan at Rotation.org.*

### SCENE 1: News Anchor(s) will open the news show, and do a live interview of Isaiah

#### Characters:

News Anchor 1 and Isaiah, plus optional: News Anchor 2

#### Step 1: Research

Read page 154 in the *Children's Illustrated Bible*, paying attention to Isaiah's vision from Isaiah chapter 6. (Note: Seraphs are six-winged angels.)

- What did Isaiah see in the Temple?
- What did Isaiah say, when he realized God was there?
- How was Isaiah's sin cleansed?
- What did God ask and what was Isaiah's answer?

#### Step 2: Script writing

Use your answers from above to complete the script for your newscast. (You may ask Isaiah other questions if you think it will help everyone learn about him.)

Note: In the final scene of the news show, the News Anchors will sign off for the news program.

#### SCENE 1 - SCRIPT

**News Anchor 1:** Good morning from Jerusalem. I am \_\_\_\_\_ reporting from W\_\_\_\_  
{- insert your church's call letters}.

**News Anchor 2:** And I'm \_\_\_\_\_, here with today's news.

**News Anchor 1:** The top story today deals with the gold articles from the Palace and the Temple. King Ahaz has collected these treasures to send to Assyria. Some people are grumbling about sending so much money to an empire, which threatens to invade the city, but others, think more should be sent. The people are afraid of an invasion.

**News Anchor 2:** In other news, a local prophet was making a disturbance of his own today. He was challenging King Ahaz to trust God. Jerusalem has always had its share of noisy prophets. The local population is tired of hearing these people bringing messages from God. Leave us alone they say! Today we have in our studio, this prophet, Isaiah. Let's hear what Isaiah has to say.

**News Anchor 1:** Isaiah, I understand that you had an unusual experience in the Temple?

**Isaiah:** \_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor 2:** A prophet's job is to bring messages to the people. How do you know what messages to say to people?

**Isaiah:** \_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor 1:** How does it feel when people sometimes don't want to hear what you have to say?

**Isaiah:** \_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor 2:** Why do you keep on trying to give people God's message?

**Isaiah:** \_\_\_\_\_

**News Anchor 1:** Thank you Isaiah for being with us.

**Isaiah:** My pleasure. May the Lord be with you.

**News Anchor 2:** An interesting thought – God will come among us as a baby?

**News Anchor 1:** A bit hard to imagine isn't it. Anyone to save us from these times. *(sigh)* Now we go to this report in the field.

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## **SCENE 2 – the Field Reporter(s) will interview Worshiper(s) outside the Temple.**

**Characters:** Field Reporter(s) and Worshiper(s).

### **Step 1: Research**

Read Isaiah 7:14

- What sign will the Lord give?
- What does Immanuel mean?

Read Isaiah 9:2 and 9:6

- Do you think that people at this time in history were feeling pretty good, or gloomy and worried?
- What do you think Isaiah's prophecy in 9:6 means?

### **Step 2: Script writing:**

Use your answers from above to write a script for the newscast. In scene 2, the worshipers have heard Isaiah give his prophecy. (If you have more than one reporter, share the questions. If you have more than one Worshiper share the responses.) You may ask more questions if you'd like!

## **SCENE 2 - SCRIPT**

**Field Reporter:** This is \_\_\_\_\_ reporting from outside the Temple in Jerusalem. I have with me today, a worshiper from the Temple. What is your name?

**Worshiper:** My name is \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** I understand you heard Isaiah, when he was doing what prophets do, giving us a message from God – prophesising they call it. What did Isaiah say?

**Worshiper:** Isaiah said \_\_\_\_\_

Field Reporter: What do you think his words mean?

**Worshiper:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** What do you think it will be like to have a "Mighty God"?

**Worshiper:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** Well there you have it – live from WFUMC. Now to our next report.

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### **SCENE 3 – an interview with Jesus' disciples (we have jumped ahead in time from around 700 BC to about 50 AD.**

**Characters:** Field Reporter(s) and disciple(s) of Jesus.

#### **Step 1: Research**

Read 9:2 and 9:6-7

- Who is the child spoken about in verse 6?
- Who is the "us" mentioned in verse 6?
- What do you think "Wonderful Counselor" means?
- What do these verses tell you about this coming child?

#### **Step 2: Script writing**

Use your answers from above to complete the script for the newscast. We are now in the times of the early church, around 50 AD. The Field Reporter(s) interviews disciple(s) of Jesus asking about Isaiah's ancient words. (If you have more than one reporter, share the questions. If you have more than one disciple share the responses.)

#### **SCENE 3 - SCRIPT**

**Field Reporter:** This is \_\_\_\_\_ reporting from Jerusalem, in the year 50 AD. I have here a disciple of Jesus. Tell us your name and why you are a disciple of Jesus.

**Disciple:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** You were with Jesus through his entire ministry. How did you know that Jesus was the Messiah promised by the prophets?

**Disciple:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** Long ago the prophet Isaiah gave people an idea of what this Messiah would be like. Isaiah said he would be a Wonderful Counselor. Did Jesus live up to that prophecy of Isaiah?

**Disciple:** Yes, well you know a counselor is someone who listens carefully and gives good advise. Why I remember Jesus saying \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** Well there you have it – a disciple's view. Now to our next report.

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## SCENE 4 – an interview with present-day Sunday school students

**Characters:** Field Reporter(s) and Modern-day Sunday's Cool student(s).

### Step 1: Research

Read Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6

- Who are these verses speaking about – who is coming?
- What does Immanuel mean?
- How does it change the way you live, to know that it was predicted that a son would be born and it actually happened?
- Isaiah described this coming Savior with many words including “Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace”. How do these words help you to understand what Jesus is like?

### Step 2: Script writing

Use your answers from above to create a script for the newscast. The news show will jump ahead to this year! The Field Reporter(s) interview students about Isaiah's ancient words. (If you have more than one reporter, share the questions. If you have more than one student share the responses.)

## SCENE 4 - SCRIPT

**Field Reporter:** This is \_\_\_\_\_ reporting from \_\_\_\_\_ {town} in \_\_\_\_\_ {year}. I am in a Sunday school class at \_\_\_\_\_. Tell us your name and why you are here.

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** Were you aware of God's promise, recorded in the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, to send a child, God's own son, to the people?

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** What have you recently learned about Isaiah?

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** How does your view of Christmas change, now that you know Jesus' birth was planned by God way in advance?

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** How does the name "Prince of Peace" help you understand God's promises?

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Reporter:** That's all from the field. Now back to the studio.

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Note: In the **final scene** of the news show, the News Anchors will sign off for the news program.

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