

Guess What Happens

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 1****Focus:**

Christ's birth was promised long ago.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

John 8:56, 58;
Isaiah 7:14, 9:6;
Micah 5:2

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
—John 1:1

In order to introduce the lesson topic, students will talk about different kinds of predictions and watch a video about weather predictions.

Materials:

- Internet access

Have you ever wished you could know the future? Even though no one can know exactly what's going to happen before it does, that doesn't stop people from making guesses—or predictions—about what they think might happen.

- **We hear lots of different kinds of predictions. Can you think of a few?** (Possible answers: Sports games, elections or other public events, weather.)
- **Have you ever heard a prediction, or guess about the future, that surprised you when it came true?** (Give the students a few minutes to share. You may want to provide an example of your own.)

There are lots of different kinds of predictions, and some are more reliable than others. Scientists are very good at predicting certain events like eclipses, comets, and meteor showers. On the other hand, people who claim to know who will win a particular game or race are usually just guessing.

One of the most common kinds of predictions is the ever-present weather update! Meteorologists do their best using computers and satellites in space to try to figure out whether it will be hot or cold, rainy or sunny, windy or calm. Of course, they don't always get it right—and things can change rapidly and unexpectedly. Let's watch a video exploring why the predicted weather can sometimes be wildly different than the actual weather.

Play this video for the students [4:57; stop at 2:28].
Why it's so hard to forecast the Midwest weather
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9dhwLT7tRw>

While weather-predicting technology has come a long way, there are still limits on the accuracy with which meteorologists can predict weather. Some of these reasons are due to limits in technology, and other limits on predictions are because different regions have greater temperature extremes, making predictions more difficult.

Making accurate predictions is hard, even when it's only a few days in advance. But there were many predictions about one event that were made many hundreds—even thousands—of years in advance. And they were exactly right, because they were prophecies from God! Let's learn more.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Guess What Happens

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 1**Focus:**

Christ's birth was promised long ago.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

John 8:56, 58;
Isaiah 7:14, 9:6;
Micah 5:2

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
—John 1:1

Materials:

- Promise Puzzle printed on cardstock (1 2-pg puzzle per student; puzzle template found at the end of this document)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Bibles or Bible apps on smartphones

Before the lesson, print a 2-page Promise Puzzle on cardstock for each student (template found at the end of this document). You should print copies for each student, so that everyone has both the frame page (with Bible verses) and the shapes page (with references). Read through the lesson ahead of time to see how the craft goes together. (If your class is meeting online, email the puzzle template to families ahead of time and ask them to print copies on cardstock. Invite them to bring the puzzles, glue sticks, scissors, and Bibles with them to class.)

God's Word through the prophets is full of promises about the Savior who would come to deliver His people. We can look back and see all the places where the coming of Jesus was foretold and described many hundreds of years before!

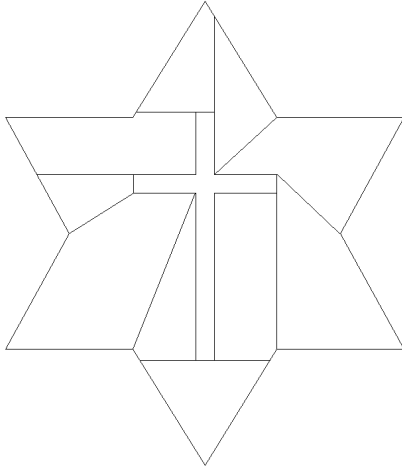
➤ **What were some of the promises God made about Jesus?** (Allow students to name whatever prophecies they recall.)

It's easy for us to look back and see how all the pieces fit together. But it wasn't so easy for the Jews in the time of Jesus, and it certainly wasn't easy for the people who lived before Jesus came. They didn't have all the pieces, so they didn't necessarily know how it was all going to turn out. For the take-home part of our lesson, we're going to "put together the pieces" of who Jesus was promised to be.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home.) **On one of these sheets, you have a star of David, a symbol used to signify the Jewish faith, with Bible verses written out around it. However, it's blank on the inside. On the other sheet, you have pieces with Scripture references written on them. Cut out the pieces and match the references to individual verses to help you solve the puzzle.**

Guide students through the activity as they find Bible verses and match the pieces to the frame. Younger students may need assistance finding references in their Bibles, so depending on the makeup of your class it may be a good idea to group the students into twos or threes.

As the students work, they will ultimately find that the pieces fit together to reveal a cross:



Because we have experienced Jesus, we have the whole picture: something that the Jews before Jesus could only see bits and pieces of. Aren't you glad we know the end of the story? Take your project home and hang it up where it will remind you of God's fulfilled promise to send a Savior.

Close in prayer.

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A virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption.

He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people.

They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

The Messiah will be cut off and have nothing.

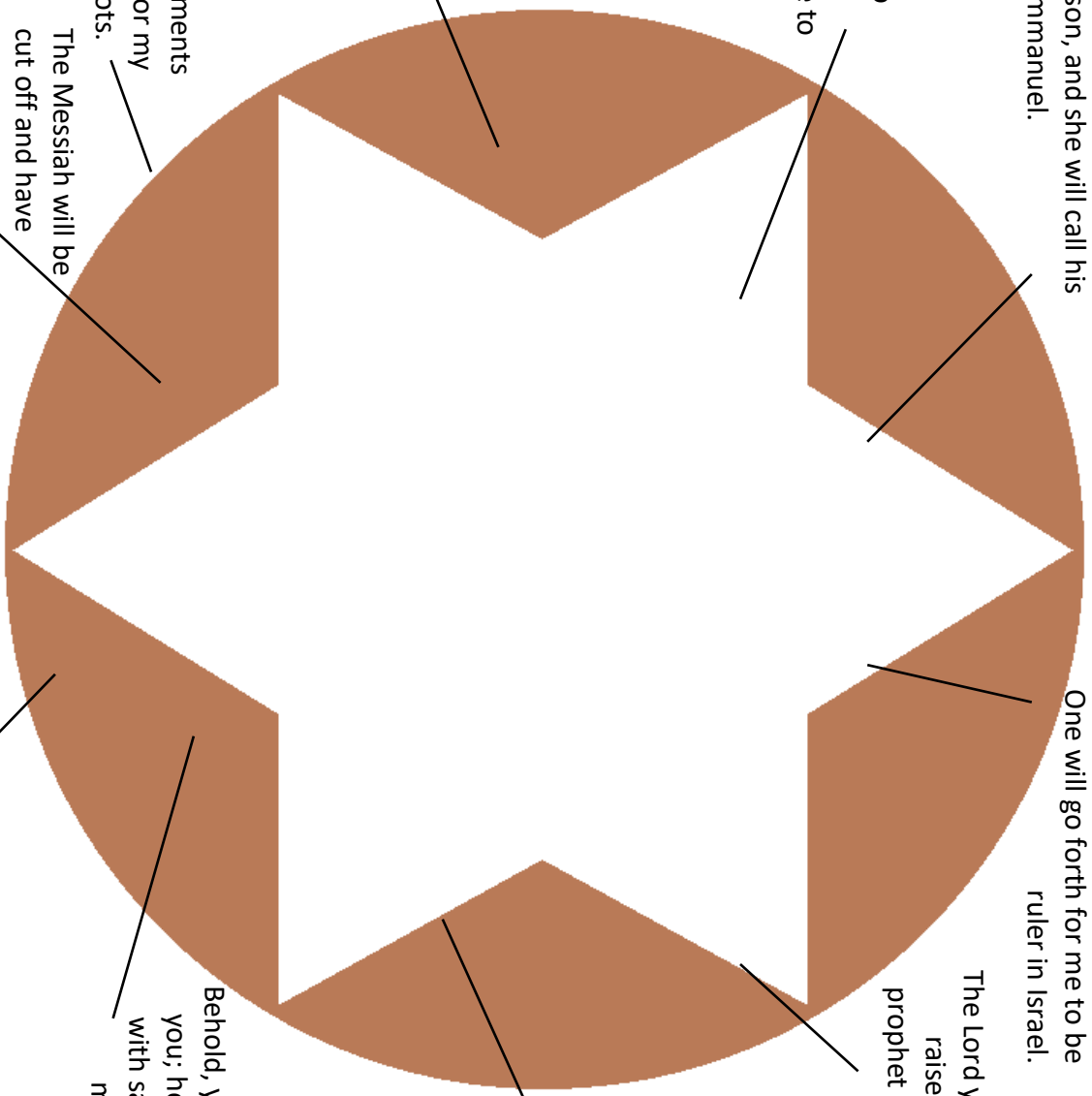
As for you, Bethlehem...from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel.

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us, and the government will rest on his shoulders, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Behold, your king is coming to you; he is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey.

They pierced my hands and my feet.



Daniel 9:26

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 7:14

Deuteronomy
18:15

Zechariah 9:9

Psalms
22:16

Micah 5:2

Psalms
22:18

Isaiah 53:8

Psalms
16:10