

For Unto Us a Child is Born!

Singing and Ringing Workshop

Written by Beth Tobin, November 2006

Bible Reference: Isaiah 9:6-7

Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Purpose:

Students will gain a better understanding of the different names given to Jesus as prophesied in Isaiah 9:6-7: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace through the use of music and Handel's Messiah.

Students will sing the alto part on the portion of Handel's Messiah titled, "For Unto Us a Child is Born." Other carols will be sung using the choir chimes as accompaniment.

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to find Isaiah 9:6-7 in their Bibles.
- Students will memorize Isaiah 9:6.
- Students will understand that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor and practice talking to Him in prayer.
- Students will understand that Jesus is our Mighty God who insulates us with His love even when our lives get over heated.
- Students will understand the reference to Everlasting Father as One who created the world, has always been with His people, is there for us now and will be for us and all people in the future.
- Students will understand that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He wants us to care for and love others as we do for ourselves.
- Students will be able to make the connection between the OT prophecy of Jesus Birth and the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Supplies and Materials:

- Copies of Handel's Messiah, "For Unto Us a Child is Born"
- Copies of "Ring and Sing for Christmas"
- Choir Chimes
- Piano
- Invite adult choir members to help fill in the SATB portions of the Messiah.

Lesson:

Welcome students and introduce yourself. Explain that today we will be taking a look at how the Old Testament told or prophesied that the Messiah would be born.

Ask: Who do you think that Messiah is? (Jesus)

Have the students find Isaiah 9:6-7 in their Bibles. Make sure they know how to find this by splitting their Bibles in half. Isaiah comes just past half way in the Old Testament.

Ask: What is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament? (The OT is about the time before Jesus was born, and the NT begins with Jesus' birth.) State: Today's lesson will make a connection between the two testaments.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Have the students underline 9:6 in their Bibles. Ask: What are the four names given in Isaiah 9:6? (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) Who are these names given to? (Jesus)

Explain: One of the best ways to help remember things is through music. Hand out copies of Handel's Messiah. Have the students turn to page _____, "For Unto Us a Child is Born." Where have they heard those words? (Isaiah 9:6) Explain that Handel based this song on the words we read today in Isaiah. Show students how to find the alto line and teach the first movement of the song through "Prince of Peace."

Ask the students what a counselor is and does? (Helps people solve problems, listens to people...) Jesus is like this for us. How does He help us? When does He listen to us?

Ask students to explain what they think “Mighty God” refers to. Accept all answers. See the Goals and Objectives for the points that we are trying to get across.

Do the same with “Everlasting Father” and “Prince of Peace.”

Ask the students why they think that Handel chose to write the music based on Isaiah 9:6? (Accept all answers.)

Sing the Messiah portion one more time.

Pass out ‘Sing and Ring for Christmas.’ Match the books to the chimes as indicated on the front of each book. Have students choose which songs they would like to sing.

Close in prayer.

Dear Lord,

You sent your Son, Jesus, as a tiny baby to live and grow among us. Thank you for His strength and guidance in our lives. Thank you for your loving arms. Help us to pray and worship often, and keep us focused on You as we enter into Advent and Christmas. Amen.