

Activity: Christmas Future

Christmas

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FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: God revealed His plans to prophets, who then foretold the birth of Jesus hundreds of years before He was born.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6 (prediction: Christ's birth) "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 7:14 (prediction: born of a virgin) "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Micah 5:2 (prediction: born in Bethlehem) "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Materials: Paper
Pencil
"Prediction" cards

In Advance: Practice solving the two activities, "Predicting the Answer" and "Knowing Your Thoughts." Explanations on how to do the two activities are included with this activity.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **What is a "prophet"?** *Listen to answers.* Someone who predicts the future. **God revealed hundreds of events yet to happen to prophets. These events are called prophecies. Jesus' birth was predicted hundreds of years before it happened.**

Invite a volunteer to read Isaiah 9:6. **This verse predicts Jesus' birth approximately 700 years before Jesus was born.** Invite a volunteer to read Isaiah 7:14. **This verse predicts that Jesus' mother Mary would be a virgin.** Invite a volunteer to read Micah 5:2. **This verse predicts Jesus would be born in Bethlehem approximately 700 years before Jesus was born.**

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B. ACTIVITY #1: Let's play a game and see if I can "predict" the answer to a very big math problem. I'll predict the answer and write it down. Use the "Predicting the Answer" explanation to reach your prediction. Repeat with each child.

C. ACTIVITY #2: Let's try another activity where I can guess what you are thinking. Choose a number between 1-31 and using the five cards I will be able to predict your number. Use the "Knowing Your Thoughts" explanation and cards to reach your prediction. Repeat with each child.

These two activities are simple math tricks. They do not involve actual "predicting." These fun math tricks can help us remember how God revealed His plans to His prophets through real prophecies. The birth of Jesus is one of these predictions. As we celebrate Christmas this year, let's not forget how miraculous it was and that Jesus' birth was predicted hundreds of years in advance.

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass It On. Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.

Christmas Future Activities

Predicting the Answer - Directions

1. This needs to be done with a child old enough to add or the adult (or older child) will need to help with the addition.
2. Have the child write a 5-digit number. Hint: this is easier to do if the last number is bigger than 2 but can still be done if smaller than 2 by borrowing and then change it accordingly.
3. Make your prediction by doing the following and let the children see you write it down. Do not reveal your answer until the end.

Subtract 2 from the child's number so that it becomes a completely new number. Write down the new number on a separate piece of paper.

Write the number 2 at the front of the new 5 digit number you just wrote. The new 6-digit number will be the answer to the problem.

Examples:	A.	B.	C.
Child's number:	63789	63781	60000
Subtract 2 from the last number	63787	63779	59998
Write <u>the number 2</u> at the front of the list	263787	263779	259998

Tell the children: **This last number is your prediction.**

4. Using Example A., continue with the following directions:
Have the child write a random row of 5 numbers below their first row
Row 1 (child) 63789
Row 2 (child) 35973
5. Now you write a row of numbers, supposedly random, however each number in your row and the row the child just wrote must equal 9.
Row 1 (child) 63789
Row 2 (child) 35973
Row 3 (YOU) 64026 Each digit in row 2 and 3 must equal 9 when added
6. Child will add one more row of random numbers and you will again add another row, making sure digits in row 4 and row 5 equal 9.
Row 1 (child) 63789
Row 2 (child) 35973 row 2 and 3 individual digits equal 9
Row 3 (YOU) 64026
Row 4 (child) 47568 row 4 and 5 individual digits equal 9
Row 5 (YOU) 52431
Add total 263787 = Your prediction of 263787
7. Add the numbers. Reveal your "prediction" and the numbers will match.

Knowing Your Thoughts - Cut out the prediction cards.



7 5 1 3
9 11 13 15
17 19 21 23
25 27 29 31



3 6 2 7
10 11 14 15
18 19 22 23
26 27 30 31



5 6 4 7
12 13 14 15
20 21 22 23
28 29 30 31



11 10 8 9
12 13 14 15
24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31



19 18 16 17

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

Directions

Have a child choose a number between 1-31 but not tell you the number. Show the child each of the 5 cards.

Ask the child, **Do you see your number on this card?** If child answers yes, make a mental note of the number directly beneath the tree trunk (3rd number, top row). Mentally add the numbers from the cards in which the child says “yes, their number is on the card”. The total of the numbers you will add will equal the number the child picked. As soon as you show all 5 cards tell the child what their number is. You will need to pay attention to their answer and quickly add in your head, so that it seems spontaneous.

For example: The child picks the number 17. They say yes to card number 1 (number below tree is a 1) and number 5 (number below tree is 16). These are the only 2 cards the child sees their number on, so you mentally add $1+16$ and know their number was 17.