

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 16

Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.

God gave Isaiah great insight to write about the future and the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Test your ability to predict the future by playing this game as a family. All you need is a coin. Have family members pair up. If there's an odd number of people, the person who sits out automatically wins and advances to the next round. Have one person flip and the other person call "heads" or "tails." The winner is the one who guesses the best three-out-of-five flips correctly. Continue playing until there is one grand champion. When you're finished, read this:

The book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies about Jesus.

- Isaiah 7:14 says Jesus will be born of a virgin.
- Isaiah 35:5-6 says when Jesus comes, the blind will see and the deaf will hear.
- Isaiah 53:12 says Jesus will die with criminals.

There more than ten different prophecies recorded in Isaiah. The chances of guessing a flipped coin correctly are 50 percent. That means you have a 1 in 2 chance of being right. Mathematician Peter Stoner figured out the chances of one man in all of history fulfilling just eight prophecies. The probability is 1 in 10^{17} , or a 1 with 17 zeros behind it. Stoner wrote that if you took 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars and put them in Texas, it would cover the state two feet deep. "Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly," Stoner says. "Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man."

Jesus is truly amazing. He didn't fulfill just eight prophecies written hundreds of years before his birth—he fulfilled nearly 50! That's an awesome God. It didn't happen by chance. It was all part of God's plan.

Extra Mile

Isaiah 53 says a lot about Jesus' sacrifice for us. Watch this video on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=47YiHynliYM&feature=Playlist&p=15AA2F782EF05463&index=17

You can also find it by searching for "Jesus the Messiah Isaiah 53" and clicking on the video that's 4:49 long. Some of the illustrations may disturb younger children. But if your children are old enough, have them watch the video as you read Isaiah 53 out loud.

The power of Isaiah's words and the images will bring home Jesus' sacrifice in a tangible way. God gave his only son and Jesus gave everything for us. And remember, Isaiah wrote these words more than 700 years before Jesus was born.