

## GCG Sunday School - 06 July 2025

### Lesson Outline



**Lesson:** New Heavens and A New Earth.

**Passage:** Isaiah 65:17-25

**Big Idea:** The Lord will remake the city where he will bring his saved people.

**Main Aim:** Be comforted, because the Lord will remake his city for us.

**Key verses:** Isaiah 65:17-19

**Please pray** for the lesson preparation, that God's word would feed us and the children.

**Laptop/tablet + speaker:** Unless you are at the Greenwich service, you will need to bring a device to play any media. If needed, Jonny can provide a **laptop and Bluetooth speaker**. 😊

**Additional resources:** [Isaiah Overview talk: Training for Grace Group leaders](#)

#### Isaiah Overview

701BC is the key date for Isaiah: when the Assyrian army arrives at Jerusalem and is destroyed.

Chapters 1-35 The army is coming. It will destroy everything, but Jerusalem will be saved.

Chapters 36-39 These events happen. The army is destroyed at the gates of Jerusalem.

Chapters 40-66 The future will look a bit like the past:

Coming universal judgement, with those who trust in the Lord being saved.

*Chapters 1-39 are written about the past, so that we'd trust the Lord for the future: chapters 40-66.*

#### Passage Overview for leaders: (Lesson Overview on page 3)

The Lord's people needed comfort in Exile. How would the Lord give them comfort?

1. He tells them that he'll remake their city.

*Isaiah 65:17-19*

New Heavens and A New Earth. New Jerusalem.

We rejoice! God rejoices!

2. It will be the most incredible city.

*Isaiah 65:20-25*

Like a return to Genesis 1-2: Long life, peace, good work, no sadness.

#### For them then

They could be comforted in exile, because the Lord would remake the city (Jerusalem) for their return.

#### For us now

We can be comforted today, as we trust that the Lord will remake the city for us: The New Jerusalem. Cf. Revelation 22.

#### The Age Ranges

**Sailors: Ages 3-6**


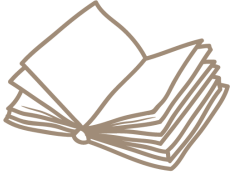



**Officers: Ages 7-11**

CW (average age 4-5 years) - Prepare the lesson for **all ages**.

Then separate **Sailor** and **Officer** groups for **Heart & Hands** teaching.

GR and EC - Personalise **all material** for the Sailors or Officers.

## Lesson Overview

Get Going ~3 min + Song	Bible Talk ~10 mins	Heart & Hands ~30 mins	Catechisms ~10 mins	Land the Lesson
			 <small>The New City Catechism for Kids</small>	
Welcome & Pray Intro Idea Song	The Big Idea The Main Aim	Craft/ Worksheet Further teaching Memory verse	Practice Together	Recap Pray Extra Fun Time

### Get Going



Welcome, Pray, Introduction idea & Song

At GR and EC the [Sailor Leader](#) will lead the “Get Going” section, by default.

### Welcome and connect briefly with the children

- Ask a fun question, showing we’re interested in their lives. Such as:
  - What’s the best/ most fun thing you did yesterday/ this morning? Highlight/lowlight?
  - What was the tastiest food you ate? The smelliest thing you smelled?

### Prayer by the leader

- Help us to listen carefully to what God has to say to us today, and to have fun.

### Rules Reminder

- We listen to the leader.
- We love our neighbour.

### Intro Idea - Introduces the theme of the passage with “Intro” Powerpoint slides.

- Ask the children - What would be most comforting? If someone said...
  - Your ice cream is on the floor, you’ll get a bad ice cream/ you’ll get a better one.
  - Your car is broken, you’ll get a worse car/ you’ll get a better one.
  - Your house is broken, you’ll get a worse house/ you’ll get a better one.
  - In Isaiah, the Israelites were in exile and their city was broken.
    - God told them, they would get a new, better one.
    - They could be comforted that one day, they’d move in.

Link: Introduce the [Big Idea](#)

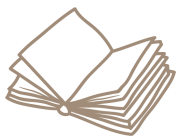
**Sing** - If needed, talk through the words and actions before singing.

God Speaks - [God Speaks - Emu Music \(with Lyrics\)](#)

With actions (A little too babyish for GR and EC): [God Speaks | All-Age Worship from All Souls](#)

**GR & EC** - Split into **Sailor** and **Officer** groups for the remainder of the session.

**CW** - Remain together.



## Bible Talk

Teaching the Big Idea & Main Aim.

Using the ICB translation: International Children's Bible.

Available at: [Bible Gateway](http://BibleGateway.com)

*Keep it clear and snappy. Maybe come up with a catchphrase for the week.*

*Have a Bible open throughout to show that we're teaching from God's word, and not from our heads.*

*Think of ways to make the Bible talk engaging. Ideas are further down.*

### Key Verses - Isaiah 65:17-19

**Lesson Points** - Arriving repeatedly at the Big Idea.

The Lord's people needed comfort in Exile. Their home city, Jerusalem, is destroyed.

How would the Lord give them comfort?

1. The Lord says to the exiles that he'll remake their city.

*Isaiah 65:17-19*

New Heavens and A New Earth. New Jerusalem.

The Israelites won't even remember the old one.

The New Jerusalem won't be a sadness for God.

It was a sadness last time when they disobeyed.

But now, the place will make God happy.

So rejoice, Israelites! How amazing is that??

God says he'll rejoice too!

What a comfort for the Israelites to know this.

2. It will be the most incredible city.

*Isaiah 65:20-25*

Long life.

No sadness.

Building. Planting. Working.

God is there. *Verse 24*. Listening to prayers.

Peace between animals and people.

This is like a return to Genesis 1-2: Long life, peace, good work, no sadness. INCREDIBLE.

Rejoice!

What a comfort for the Israelites to know this.

*For us now: The Lord will bring down the New Jerusalem for us. Revelation 21:1-4*

An amazing new city for his people: Eternal life, no sadness, God is there, peace.

This is even better than Genesis 1-2.

What a comfort for us to know this.

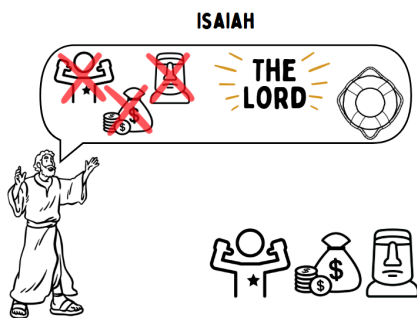
Even when life is sad, we can know that God will make this city for us.

**Brief application** - The Main Aim expanded.

- **Sailors** State the Main Aim application and expand it a bit.  
This is how it's right to think/ act/ talk/ feel.  
For home/ school/ church.
- **Officers** Ask questions to arrive at the Main aim application.  
How does this help us think/ act/ talk/ feel differently?  
What about at home/ school/ church?

**Teaching ideas** - Ask Jonny if you'd like more ideas.

- In the Bible talk, I'd recommend using the teaching images to get the big points clear.
- Isaiah series picture. Find it laminated in the box. Use it to give an Isaiah overview each week: Isaiah is surrounded by people trusting in themselves, idols and money to save them. No! He says. Trust in the Lord alone to save you!



- Isaiah has a lot of picture language. Bring out the *images* and the *tone* by acting/storytelling: **You may want to source extra props, Jonny can help.**  
Here are some ideas for scenes,
  1. Act out rejoicing together. We rejoice. God rejoices.
  2. Act out what the city will be like: No crying, people living to really big ages, the animals are friends.
- Ask questions when teaching, adapting them for the children in your group, such as:
  1. How should the Israelites feel about the new city? Why?
  2. As I read, tell me the amazing things in the new city.
- **Sailors - More question ideas:** What noise/ smell do you think it made? How many stars did he see? Have you ever seen that before? How did he feel? What face would she have made?
- **Sailors - More teaching ideas:** Make actions to copy at certain points, act it out with costumes and scenery, go for a walk around the room, use Lego/Playmobile figures.
- **Officers - More question ideas:** Why do you think he did that? What did she get right/ wrong? What would you do in his situation?
- **Officers - More teaching ideas:** Act it out, have them draw scenes, shout out the best thing they see in the passage, make a puppet show using paper and card, go for a walk, use Lego.



## Heart and Hands

More on the Big Idea & Main Aim with activities.

**Table Activities - Craft or worksheet** - Spares go to the Eltham service.

- **Sailors** Craft.  
*Cut, stick/fasten, colour. Chat about how it relates to the teaching point.*
- **Officers** Worksheet.  
*This is a guided form of Bible study, to help them learn how Bible studies work. The sheet progresses from easy questions to harder questions. Help them find answers in the Bible and think about the passage.*

## Further Teaching

An opportunity to reteach the same Big Idea & Main Aim with:

- Act out the passage/ recap main point using the craft/worksheet.
- Do a drama based on the Main Aim. For example, the children make up a drama about someone who used to be worried, but is now comforted because God knows them completely.
- Discuss application.

The New City  
Catechism

for Kids



## New City Catechism

### Practice Together

What is this? [▶ Tim Keller Introduces the New City Catechism](#)

Why do this? [▶ Why We Should Catechize Our Children](#)

## This week - Question 13.

- Open up the Catechism of the week.  
Practice saying it with the children. Some might have learnt it at home to say it with less help.  
Talk about difficult words and ideas.
- **Sailors** Use Children's Mode and the songs to learn. Playlist starts here:  
[▶ Q1 What is Our Only Hope in Life and Death?](#)
- **Officers** Use Children's Mode where necessary.  
You could make up a rhyme or rap to learn it.  
Or make up a game of trying to remember it: In a circle, one word each.



## Land the lesson

Bring everything together: Recap, prayer and game.

**Recap** - Use the craft/ worksheet to remind them of the Big Idea & Main Aim.

**Pray** - Encourage the children to pray with you about the Big Idea and Main Aim.  
They could **thank/praise God** for it or **ask for help** in believing it.

- **Sailors** You could suggest "Popcorn prayers" - really short prayers.

Or “Arrow prayers”- We all shoot up like an arrow at the end.  
Or you could try the idea we use with Officers.

- **Officers** You could pass an object, like a Bible, around the room.  
When a child receives the Bible, they can choose to pray in their head or aloud.

**Game idea** - Feel free to play something different!

- **Sailors** Something fun, check the G-drive.
- **Officers** Something fun, check the G-drive.

**Time fillers, Games and Music** - Check the G-drive

- I often play something from: <https://www.youtube.com/@thebiggeststory>
- A Spotify playlist of Sunday School songs can be found in the Term Overview Document.

**Sign out** - Give each family a Take Home Sheet

- Sign out with Check-In.