

Shout for Joy!

(Based on Isaiah 12:2-6)

The recorder of Isaiah's words from God lived hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus. These words were given to a people who were forced to live in a land far from their homes. They were not allowed to return to their homes in Jerusalem. They really needed some good news, some news that would be joyful.

And God didn't disappoint them. God had a message for them, a message that would bring them great joy. God gave this message to the prophet Isaiah, who told the people that God's message was so good that this is what they would say:

*It is God who saves me.
 I will trust God. I will not be afraid.*
 God will shield me with God's strength.
 God is my salvation!**

Isaiah told the people,

You will find joy in God's salvation.
 You will say, "Thank God. Tell everyone about God's deeds.
 God's name is wonderful!"*
 Sing to God, who has done marvelous things.*
 Shout and sing for joy, God's people.
 The holy one of Israel, God, is great!**

The people must have jumped for joy when they heard this message from Isaiah.

*Insert group response when telling the story the second time.

