

Who is JESUS?

Lesson 1 • July 3
The Old Testament Fingerprint

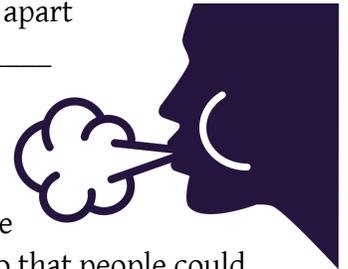


Take a look at the fingerprints on your hands. Did you know...

1. Your fingerprints are unique to _____?
2. They help _____ who you are?

With that in mind, let's read **Romans 1:1-4** together...

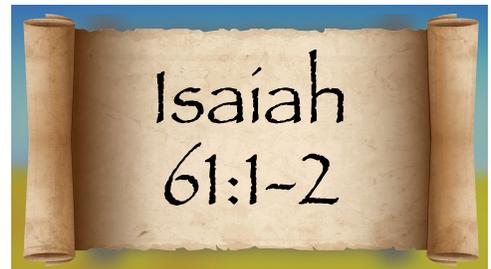
Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he _____ beforehand through his _____ in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son...



In the God-breathed Scriptures, it was promised over and over again that a Savior would come. The Old Testament is full of more than 300 references to the coming of Jesus! Those promises and prophecies formed a kind of fingerprint so that people could recognize the Son of God when he finally arrived. Listen to what Jesus did and said in **Luke 4:16-21**:

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet _____ was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”



And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been _____ in your hearing.”

Who is Jesus? He's the One identified by that Old Testament fingerprint. The One God was promising would come. The One who fulfilled all those prophecies. Here are just a few to get us thinking...

1. He was part of _____ family tree (**Matt 1:1; Gen 22:18**)
2. He was born in _____ (**Matt 2:3-6; Mic 5:2**)
3. He was born around the time of a terrible _____ (**Matt 2:16-18; Jer 31:15**)

Jesus came to “fulfill” the Law and the Prophets (**Matt 5:17**). Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- How amazing is it that we all have unique fingerprints? Is that an accident? Whose idea was it?

- Let's read **Romans 1:1-2** again together.
 - When Paul described himself as “an apostle,” what did he mean by that?

 - In **verse 2**, we heard about things God “promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures.” What are “the holy Scriptures”? How did the “prophets” know what to say? Can you think of the names of any of the prophets?

- In **Luke 4**, we heard about Jesus going to the “synagogue.” What was a synagogue?

- We heard Jesus read from (what we call) **Isaiah 61:1-2** and in **Luke 4:21**, Jesus said “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” What did he mean by that? What does it mean to “fulfill” a prophecy?

- Let's think about those three prophecies about Jesus' birth that were mentioned in our video:
 1. Jesus was part of Abraham's family tree
 2. He was born in Bethlehem
 3. He was born around the time of a terrible tragedy

How did these form a kind of “fingerprint” so people could know whether or not Jesus was God's promised Son?

- Can you think of any other prophecies about Jesus from the Old Testament? His life? How he would be treated? His death? His resurrection?

- What does all of this teach us about Jesus and how we ought to think of him?