



Count on it

Living in the certainty of God's Word



STORY TIME

This is a version of the Isaiah reading written to involve young children with mime and actions. It can be used to introduce Junior Church activities for ages 5–6. If you practise it a couple of times, you could present it to the rest of the church family towards the end of the service.

Actions to practise before you tell the story.

- sad faces
- happy faces
- hand behind ear for listening
- give yourself a hug for feeling safe and loved
- flex your muscles to show how strong you are

You could also practise a 'big shout' for the end of the story. It could be *alleluia!* Or *amen!* Or *yeah!* Practise it as a response to 'You can count on it!'

Rain and seed mime

Start with your hands high above your head, then wiggle your fingers and bend lower and lower till you touch the ground. Next, let your fingers wiggle like growing stalks, rise up until you are standing on tiptoe with your arms up high, imitating the grown plants.

The story

(Children sit round edges of room – they are lost.)

The people of God were lost.

They were in a strange place and they were sad and scared. *(faces)*

So God sent his friend Isaiah to them with an important message.

'Come on,' said Isaiah. 'Don't worry. Don't be sad. Don't be scared. God has sent you a message.' *(beckon to children who come and sit together)*

So the people came and listened. *(hand behind ear)*

Isaiah showed them God's holy book. *(scroll, book, CD)*

'This is full of good things,' Isaiah said.

'Full of God things,' Isaiah said.

'Full of stories and songs and messages from God.

Listen (*ear*) to the stories, sing the songs, hear the messages and they will make you feel safe. (*hug*)

Listen (*ear*) to the stories, sing the songs, hear the messages and they will make you feel happy. (*happy face*)

Listen (*ear*) to the stories, sing the songs, hear the messages and you will know God loves you. (*hug*)

God won't leave you sad. God will take care of you.

Think of rain gently falling on the ground. (*rain mime*)

Remember how the rain makes the seeds grow.

The gentle rain always makes the seeds grow. (*seed growing mime*)

Rain makes plants grown tall and strong. (*muscles*)

You can trust the rain to do its job.

And God's Word is as reliable as rain.

You can trust God's Word.

You can trust the stories, songs and messages God sends.

Listen (*ear*) to the stories, sing the songs and hear the messages and you will grow strong (*muscles*) and happy (*face*) and safe (*hug*) in God's hand.

God's messages never fail. You can count on it.' (*big shout*)

Story by Jan Dean. Jan is a widely published children's poet, fiction writer, festival performer and frequent writer-in-schools.