

The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2016-17  
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Special Session

**Introduction: *Show the relevance of history.***

If you have a history buff in your group, invite him or her to prepare a short lecture (5 minutes) on what happened in history between A.D. 300-400. (Or, if you don't have someone who would love this assignment, read some of the highlights from that century at the following websites:

- <http://www.historycentral.com/dates/300ad.html>
- <http://www.fsmitha.com/time/ce04.htm>

Ask, “How applicable are these events from world history to our lives today?” (Though some seem to be only points on a timeline, many of them shaped our world and, ultimately, our 21<sup>st</sup>-century lives.)

Say something like, “Just as 700 years seems forever ago to us, it is still important. Similarly, the prophet Isaiah spoke of a ‘little boy,’ the little boy for whom this season is named, 700 years before He was born. We’ll look at some of his most poignant prophetic words today.”

**Point 2: *Trace key concepts through Scripture.***

Re-read Isaiah 11:2. Point out the words *Spirit* and *wisdom*. Say something like, “We often ask God to make us wise, but we don’t always realize that wisdom from God comes through the Holy Spirit. We see it here in Isaiah as a quality of Jesus, but we also have access to this Spirit-led wisdom.”

Invite a few volunteers to read the following verses and then discuss with your group how the Spirit and wisdom are connected:

- Exodus 31:1-5
- Job 32:8
- Acts 6:3
- 1 Corinthians 2:7
- Ephesians 1:17
- Colossians 1:9

**Point 3: *Visualize the future with pictures.***

Show learners the photos of these animals that are usually natural enemies but uniquely photographed together: <http://beautifulnow.is/bnow/an-animal-friend-in-need-is-a-beautiful-friend-indeed>

Say something like, “These animals show us a glimpse of heaven. But even more than animals getting along, consider our natural tendency to be against God and against one another. We, like these photos, give others a glimpse of heaven when we live in a relationship with God through faith and live in unity with others to God’s glory.”

**Conclusion: *Sing it.***

Say something like this: “We have many wonderful songs that we sing at Christmas; but this passage from Isaiah is just as integral to the fulfillment of God’s promise as any of our traditional Christmas songs.”

Then listen to the following song, “Isaiah 11” from Rain for Roots, and encourage learners to add it to their family’s musical library:

<https://rainforroots.bandcamp.com/track/isaiah-11>

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Point learners past Christmas and toward eternity. Remind them that, though we love Christmas and Jesus’ birth, our eternal focus will not be on His earthly birth but on His earthly triumph over death.