

Lesson #3-10

Isaiah's Vision in the Temple

Isaiah 6:1-8

3rd-6th

Key Verse:

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I; Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8

The Point:

God calls imperfect people to do God's work.

Making Connections:

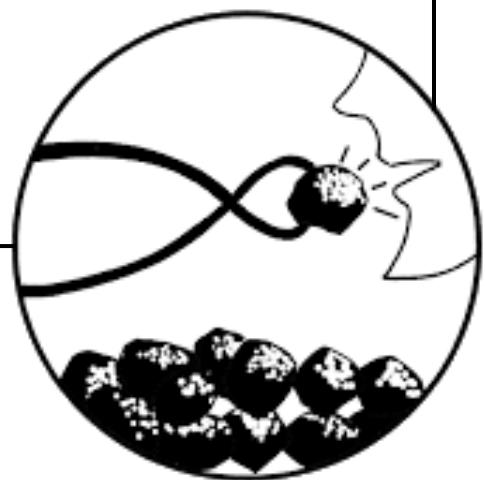
God Sightings

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Temple

Spiritual Practice:

Service



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Into the Story

What Can I Do?

Share and show what you are good at doing.

10 min.

† None

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Temple

Compare the local church to the Old Testament temple.

15 min.

† Photo of a temple
† Optional: photo of your church

Learning the Story

A Vision of God

Imagine what it would be like to see God.

15 min.

† Bibles
† White board
† Markers

Living the Story

Work to Be Done

Become messengers of God's love.

10 min.

† None

Additional Activities

God-Sightings Message Boards

Continue last week's record of God sightings.

15 min.

† Message board from Lessons #3-8 and 3-9
† Colorful index cards
† Pens or pencils
† Push pins or tape

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

Seraphim

Deliver words of praise to a worship team.

15 min.

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † White board
- † Markers

On-the-Spot Talent

Participate in an on-the-spot talent show.

15 min.

- † None

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

We have seen several “God sightings” where God instructs, enables, and guides people for God’s purposes. For example, Jonah at first refused to preach God’s message to Nineveh, but was given a second chance. God showed God’s self to Moses in the tabernacle and promised to guide and be present with the people wherever they went. Today we see how God used an ordinary person like Isaiah to receive God’s prophetic messages and pass them along to the people.

Story Summary:

Isaiah’s Vision in the Temple

Isaiah was a man who served God. One day, he was drawn into the temple where he saw God. When he saw God and all of God’s glory, he realized how magnificent and perfect God is. He also realized his own imperfections next to a holy God. “Woe is me!” he said.

A seraphim (like an angel) touched Isaiah’s lips with coal and told him that his sins were forgiven. God asked who to send with an important message, and Isaiah said, “Here I am, send me.” At first, Isaiah did not feel adequate to do anything for God. Then, God showed Isaiah that God can speak through him.

The Point

God calls imperfect people to do God’s work.

As we read through the Bible, we see the stories of people who followed God’s ways, but who also had flaws. God called these people and worked through them just as God calls and works through us.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Temple

After years of wandering in the wilderness with a portable tent of worship (tabernacle), the Israelites constructed a permanent temple under Solomon’s direction. The most important room within the temple was the Holy of Holies, God’s special dwelling place, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The Ark of the Covenant held the Ten Commandments. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, a high priest entered the Holy of Holies and prayed for Israel. Otherwise, no one could enter the Holy of Holies—God’s presence—without dying. People brought animal sacrifices to the temple priests as atonement for sin and as special offerings. Upon Jesus’ death on the cross, his ultimate sacrifice replaced the need for regular temple sacrifices, and the veil closing off the Holy of Holies tore in half, making God available to all people everywhere.

Spiritual Practice: Service

Isaiah felt inadequate to serve a holy God. Consider the feelings of inadequacy that you may have when asked to do something or even in your current role of service. Do you believe that God can use anyone with a willing and humble heart? When God gives you an opportunity to serve, you can say with conviction, “Here am I! Send me!”

Lesson Plan



Into the Story (10 minutes)

What I Can Do

Share and show what you are good at doing

You will need:

† Nothing

During class:

1. **What are some of the things that you can do well? [Answers will vary.]**
2. **Is there something you can do that a lot of other people cannot do? [Answers will vary.]**
3. **Who can show us something they do well?**
4. **What are some things that you do not think you are good at? [Answers will vary.]**
5. **God uses us even if we do not think we can do what God has for us to do. God uses us even we are not the best at doing something. We just need to be willing, and God will take care of the rest.**

Bible Nuts & Bolts (15 minutes)

Temple

Compare the local church to the Old Testament temple.

You will need:

- † Photo of a temple
- † Optional: photo of your church

Before class:

1. Locate a picture of a temple in a Bible or online.

During class:

1. Show a picture of your church or go outside and walk around your church and point out certain things about its structure.
2. **What do we do here?** *[Gather to worship, have suppers, etc.]* **What do we do to prepare to come here?** *[Answers will vary.]*
3. Ask the students to make a comparison of your church and the temple. Show a picture of the temple either from in the Bible or from online. **What is the same? What is different?**
4. **We come to church to worship God, and sometimes we call the church God's house, but God is everywhere.** A long time ago before Jesus died on a cross and rose from the dead, the Israelites worshipped at the temple in Jerusalem. God's Spirit dwelled right there in the temple. People brought offerings. Priests sacrificed animals as an act of worship. The temple was a holy place where worship was different from the way it is in our churches today.
5. **Although the temple was beautiful, the greatness was not about the temple, but about the connection with the presence of a holy God inside the temple.**
6. **Today we can have a special connection or relationship with God within our hearts.** (1 Corinthians 3:16 tells us that our bodies are the temple of God.)

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

Isaiah's Vision of God

Look at God through Isaiah's vision.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † White board
- † Markers

During class:

1. **What do you think God looks like?** Allow time for brainstorming and fill the board with the description that the students give you.
2. **When you imagine God, where is God and what else is going on there?** Add these answers to the white board as well.
3. Ask for volunteers to read one verse at a time through Isaiah 6:1-8.
4. After each verse, stop and ask how God is described.
5. Using a different color marker, circle anything on the white board that the students had listed and add anything new that was read in Isaiah's description. These include God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; with a huge train—robe—filled the temple; above God stood the seraphim; “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of [God’s] glory;” the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called; the house was filled with smoke; God was forgiving.
6. **If you were Isaiah, how do you think this experience would have changed you?**
[Answers will vary.]
7. **A holy God calls sinful people to do serve God and others. We can listen for God and do what God asks of us.**

Living the Story (10 minutes)

Work to Be Done

Become messengers of God's love.

You will need:

- † Nothing

During class:

- 1. God needed Isaiah to be a messenger. God needs us to be messengers, too. What can we do or say?**
2. Ask the students to plan and practice how they can use their hearts and mouths to serve others. **You can plan acts of kindness, or you can plan to say kind words.**
3. Some ideas to get them started:
 - Hold the classroom door open for the class at recess time.
 - Share lunch with someone who forgot one or who does not have much.
 - Help the teacher straighten the room at the end of the day.
 - Accompany an injured classmate to the nurse's office.
 - Volunteer to deliver books and homework to a student who is too ill to attend school.
4. **Come up with situations and words to say. Practice and demonstrate to us by serving each other with kind words and actions.**
5. After the activity, say: **Make a plan to carry these out elsewhere to serve others during the week.**

Additional Activities

God-Sightings Message Boards (10 minutes)

Continue last week's record of God sightings from this week.

You will need:

- † Message board from Lessons #3-8 and #3-9
- † Colorful index cards
- † Markers
- † Pens or pencils
- † Push pins or tape

During class:

1. **We are going to continue to use a message board (or boards) to hang in the church or in our meeting room. This is the third week during this unit where we will add to the board content from the Bible lesson and from your own God sightings during the week.** (If you are using the white board, index cards will be replaced with writing directly on the white board.)
2. Share a few of your own God sightings from the past week.
3. **What are the God sightings that you experienced?** Allow time for the students to warm up and begin sharing. Your enthusiastic response when the first few students share might encourage the others to share as well.
4. Distribute index cards and ask the students to write their God sightings on the cards. Some may need a number of cards. If some students could not identify any sightings, they can write God sightings from today's Bible lesson.
5. Allow the students the opportunity to pin their own sightings on the board and remind them to keep their eyes on the alert for God sightings again this coming week.
6. Challenge the students to continue looking for God sightings and to share them with us next week.

Seraphim (15 minutes)

Deliver words of praise to a worship team.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † White board
- † Markers

Before class:

1. Write praise words on the white board.

During class:

1. **The seraphim in today's reading had two wings covering their eyes, two wings covering their feet, and two wings for flying.**
2. Divide the students into several teams of six (modify team sizes as needed). Split each team into three seraphs and three worshippers. Seraphs and worshippers stand on opposite sides of the room, a distance from the white board.
3. **The seraphs have to help each other bring one praise word at a time to the worship team to sing or say to God. One seraph will walk with hands touching feet. One will walk with hands over eyes. The other will flap arms to fly. The three have to work together to get safely from the praise word board (white board) to the worship team. All three must stay together.**
4. **The seraphs will go to the board, choose a word, and repeat it the whole way back to the worship team. They will say the word to the worship team, the worship team will write it down and repeat the word while the seraphs will return to the board for the next word. Each time a new word is delivered, the worshippers add it to their list and to what they are repeating.**
5. **The first team to have all five words to the worshippers and the worshippers repeat them in unison, wins the game.**
6. Repeat, so the worshippers and seraphs swap places.
7. If your class is too small to have more than one team, you can have students compete for time or similar.

Words for the praise word board:

<i>Holy</i>	<i>Strong</i>
<i>Worthy</i>	<i>Mighty</i>
<i>King</i>	



On-the-Spot Talent (15 minutes)

Participate in an on-the-spot talent show.

You will need:

- † Nothing

During class:

1. **What talent can you use to lead us in worship or to bring a smile to our faces? Are you funny? Can you dance? Can you sing? Can you recite Scripture? Can you talk in another language? Can you recite math facts? Can you style hair?**
2. **We are going to celebrate who we are and what we can do. God gave us all of our abilities and God can use what we have for God's glory.**
3. Invite the students to perform briefly. Clap after each talent is shown or described.

Optional: if you do not want this to be quite so “on the spot”, you may contact the students during the week to let them know they can bring in games that they are good at, musical instruments, small sports equipment, etc.

Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

Sending the Story (5 minutes)

The story of Isaiah shows how God calls imperfect people into God's service, including us!

- **Why did Isaiah think he could not speak for God?** *[He did not feel worthy; he said he was a man of unclean lips; he saw how imperfect he was next to a holy God.]*
- **What was God's response to Isaiah?** *[God made a way for Isaiah to do what God had for him to do.]*
- **When Isaiah understood that God would help him, what was Isaiah's response to God?** *[Here am I, send me.]*

Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

This verse will be spoken reverently as the prayer. Each time it will get a little louder.

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of [God’s] glory.”** (Isaiah 6:3)

Isaiah's Vision in the Temple

Isaiah 6:1-8

I Learned:



The Story @ Home

3rd - 6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-10

Isaiah 6:1-8

Last Week

Jonah was a prophet whose job was to tell the people of Nineveh to turn towards God and repent. (Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10; [4:1-11]).

This Week

God calls Isaiah to be a prophet in a dramatic and frightening vision in the temple, but, unlike Jonah, he accepts the call (Isaiah 6:1-8).

The Point

God calls imperfect people to do God's work.

Story Summary

Isaiah's Vision in the Temple

Isaiah was a man who served God. One day, he was led to go into the temple where he saw God. When he saw God and all of God's glory, he realized how magnificent and perfect God is. He also realized his own imperfections next to a holy God. "Woe is me!" he said. An angel touched Isaiah's lips with coal and told him that his sins were forgiven. God asked who to send with an important message, and Isaiah said, "Here I am, send me!" At first, Isaiah did not feel adequate to do anything for God. Then God showed Isaiah that God can empower him to do what he was called to do.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

The Temple

After years of wandering in the wilderness with a portable tent for worship, the Israelites constructed a permanent temple when Solomon was king. The most important room within the temple was the Holy of Holies, God's special dwelling place. People brought animal sacrifices to the temple priests as atonement for sin and as special offerings.

Practice: Service

When Isaiah was called into service for God, he felt inadequate before a holy God. Do you believe that God can use anyone with a willing and humble heart? As a family, pray and ask God to show you something that you can do to serve others. Then say together, with conviction, "Here am I! Send me!"

Next Week

The prophet Jeremiah has a message calling an unfaithful people to repentance with promises of forgiveness. The king burns the prophecy, but the prophet just writes it again (Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- † What do you think God's plans are for you for right now?
- † What do you hope God has planned for you when you get older?
- † What did God do in this reading that shows God's love for people?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah saw a vision of God in the temple. When God called Isaiah to be a prophet, Isaiah had a willing and meek heart. Place your fingers on your lips. Ask God to use you as you are.

Monday—Read Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaiah told of the coming Messiah who would bring harmony to the world. The Messiah would be wise, righteous, and faithful. Hold hands and sit quietly. Think about God, love, and peace. Enjoy the quiet together.

Tuesday—Read Isaiah 25:1-10

Rejoice and praise God for the Messiah who delivers people from oppression. Give thanks for God's strength and comfort. Sit in a circle and give each person a chance to say something they are thankful for.

Wednesday—Read Isaiah 38:1-8

King Hezekiah was deathly ill. God heard his prayer and promised him fifteen more years of life. He and his people would be delivered from Assyria. Make "bucket lists." What are your dreams for all of the things that you want to do in your lifetime?

Thursday—Read Isaiah 44:1-8

There is no other God than the Lord. Isaiah said God gives water to the thirsty and blesses those who say that God is their God. Drink a glass of water and thank God for quenching your physical thirst as well as your spiritual thirst.

Friday—Read Jeremiah 1:4-10

God had a plan for Jeremiah. Even though Jeremiah thought he was too young to speak for God, God gave him the words to speak. Line up by age. Play "telephone" where the oldest family member whispers something to the next family member, and go down the line until the youngest person calls out the message.

Saturday—Read 2 Kings 23:1-3, 21-25

King Josiah destroyed all the idols and restored the Passover feast. He followed God, and the people followed his example. List the family's schedule for the coming week. Is there anything you can do without, so the family can slow down and spend more time reading the Bible and praying together?