



LESSON 1 ISAIAH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Calls People to Be His Messengers

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: The prophet Isaiah has a vision of God's throne room. Isaiah recognizes God's holiness and his own sinfulness, but God cleanses him and calls Isaiah to be His messenger.

WORD OF WONDER: God has said, "I will never leave you. I will never desert you." —Hebrews 13:5b

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What is the strangest thing you have ever seen?
- SMALL GROUP
- Interactive Game: Read My Lips
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: I Exalt Thee/I Speak Jesus
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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Do you remember when you signed up to lead kids? There must have been something that compelled you to go through a process to be in the position you are today, and there undoubtedly continues to be a reason that you come back to delivering God's message to kids again and again.

It may have been a nudge from the Holy Spirit during a compelling announcement or guilt from a shorthanded staff person. Maybe someone saw something in you and tapped you on the shoulder to serve, and that called out something in you that you had never considered before. Regardless of the specific , you responded to a call.

Read Isaiah 6. It's a wild scene. But at the heart, it's about God calling a person to be a messenger to the leaders of Jerusalem and Judah. Isaiah accepts the calling to bring hope to these leaders in spite of the painful truth about judgment because he believes in God's promises.

Whatever it was that compelled you to start, God has called you to share His message of love—to believe that God's Word and the promises He has made are true and must be shared with the next generation. Though there are likely weeks when you feel like you're not worthy—or possibly just not prepared, God is with you, and His Holy Spirit will speak through you to deliver His message.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Isaiah means “Yahweh is salvation.” The prophet was probably born and educated in Jerusalem. There is some indication he was related to King Uzziah since he had access to the court and was deeply concerned with leadership.

WHAT?

King Uzziah died at a difficult time in Israel’s history as they were under threat from foreign invaders. God intervenes and provides His people with a messenger through a vision. He calls Isaiah to speak on His behalf, and Isaiah becomes God’s prophet.

WHERE?

In Isaiah 6:1, we are told that Isaiah’s vision takes place in the “temple.” This may refer to the physical temple in Jerusalem, but it could also refer to Isaiah being transported in his vision to the temple of God in heaven.

WHEN?

Isaiah lived during the eighth century BC. The death of King Uzziah was around 740 BC, and shortly after, Assyria began its assault on the Northern Kingdom of Israel. By 722 BC, the capital city of Israel, Samaria, was conquered by Assyria.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

Isaiah couldn’t cleanse himself of his sin, so God cleansed him and made him able to stand in the presence of the Holy God. Jesus gives of Himself on the cross to cleanse all who trust in Him so they too can be with God.

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Interactive Game: Read My Lips

SUPPLIES: paper, scissors (prep only), marker, bowl, disposable ear plugs (1 pair per kid), earmuffs (optional), headphones (optional)

SLIDE: READ MY LIPS

Before you begin, cut the paper into slips. Use a marker to write out a several simple sentences on the slips of paper. There should be enough for each kid in each small group to have one. Consider the following:

I like your smile.

Apples are delicious.

I think clowns are funny.

Don't pet the bear.

My balloon is purple.



Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. You might want to make some slips with simpler options for the younger kids. Maybe just a word or two, such as “popcorn,” “tiger,” “bumblebee,” or “cotton candy.” Be available to whisper the words to non-readers.

Put the slips of paper in the bowl.

Invite small group leaders to bring out their bowl of slips.

Make It Inclusive!

If you have any kids who are hearing impaired, they probably have a lot of experience with reading lips or being frustrated with not being able to hear what's being said. Invite them to show the other kids how it's done! If they feel comfortable, they could share with the kids some of their own experiences with figuring out what's being said.

To play, one kid will wear ear plugs, ear muffs, or headphones, and one other kid will pick a slip of paper from the bowl. The goal will be for the partner with the slip to quietly say the sentence on the paper while the person wearing the earplugs reads her lips and guesses what's being said. The kid saying the sentence shouldn't shout or speak loudly enough for their partner to hear them. The partner wearing the ear plugs will keep guessing until he gets it or until you call time's up. Give each partner a chance to be the one guessing, and play until all the kids have gotten to do both parts of the activity.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Good lip reading, everyone! It's a hard task to help people understand your message when they can't hear you! Today we will learn about how God called Isaiah to share His message with people who didn't want to listen. But God still wanted Isaiah to share His truth. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO BE HIS MESSENGERS."**



Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board (optional), whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question: "What is the strangest thing you have ever seen?" Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

"We've all seen some really strange things! Today we're going to learn about how the prophet Isaiah saw an amazing vision of God—something he had never seen before. We're going to circle up now with our SG Leaders to read the story!"



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Leader Tip: Repeat expectations for how we should act during Large Group time. Talk through each transition and explain why we do the things we do.

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

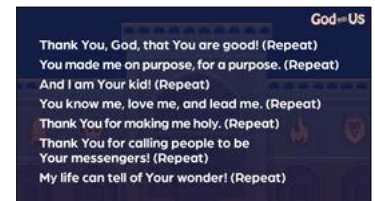
And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for making me holy. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for calling people to be Your messengers! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You that we get to be here together today. As we open the Bible and learn from Your story, we pray that Your Spirit would be present with us and teach us. You are so holy, and we are grateful that You invite us to share Your message of love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

****NEW SONGS!!** Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: My Help, Praise

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Explain that Isaiah is a long book of the Bible in the section with all the prophets.

"Long after King David and King Solomon, many of God's people began to forget about God and His good ways. As their faith in God weakened, so did their nation. Eventually, Judah was conquered by the Babylonians, and God's people were taken far from their home, forced to live as exiles in a land that belonged to other people. But this was not unexpected or hopeless. God sent messengers to His people to warn them of the consequences for their actions and to remind them that God would forgive them and bring them back to their land if they chose to follow Him again.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!



Leader Tip: Is seraphim just another name for angels? The word *angel* comes from the Greek word for “messenger,” and many Christians think of *angel* as shorthand for any of God’s heavenly servants. However, in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, the word *seraphim* (called *seraphs* in some translations) means “flame .” Unlike the messengers of God mentioned in the New Testament, *seraphim* are explicitly said to have wings (like the *cherubim*, another group of heavenly, winged servants mentioned multiple times throughout the Old Testament).

LESSON 1 ISAIAH

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: drawing and coloring utensils, whiteboard or flip chart, dry-erase markers or permanent markers (multiple colors), boxes or bins for drawing utensils (optional)

RESOURCES: *Scenes Sheet Older Kids (1 per older kid, 2-sided)*, *Scenes Sheet Younger Kids (1 per younger kid, 2-sided)*

Ahead of time, print two-sided copies of the Scenes Sheet Older Kids for each older kid and of the Scenes Sheet Younger Kids for each younger kid, and one of your choice for yourself. (Look through the Experience It! Script ahead of time to determine what ages will use the Older and Younger versions of the resource.) On the whiteboard or two sheets of a flip chart, draw boxes in the same layout as the boxes on the Scenes Sheet. Decide whether you will draw each scene on the chart or whiteboard (a great option if your group includes a lot of younger kids) or simply write the word of the object (a great option if your group includes a lot of older kids). Place the dry-erase or permanent markers nearby.

Gather kids together. Hand out the Scenes Sheets for Older and Younger Kids. Help kids locate the drawing utensils and write their names on the line at the bottom of their sheets. Move the whiteboard or flip chart to the center of the stage area.



All of Judah felt great loss when their leader, King Uzziah, died. There was a nation to the north that the people feared called Assyria, which was threatening to conquer the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. With the great king Uzziah dead, who would protect Judah?

God wanted His people to know that, even though Uzziah was gone, the King of heaven still reigned, so He spoke to Isaiah in a vision. In the vision, the Lord sat on His great throne, so huge and powerful that His robe filled the whole space. Let's draw the throne in the first box."

Show kids the front of the Scenes Sheet and point to the first large box on the left and then the corresponding box on the whiteboard or flip chart. If you have a lot of younger kids, consider drawing a grand, colorful throne in the box on the chart or whiteboard. If you have a lot of older kids, consider simply writing the word "throne" in the box.

Encourage older kids to draw the throne as they imagine it looking. Younger kids can connect the dots on their sheets to draw a throne and then color it. Encourage kids to use lots of colors and details!

SLIDE: THRONE

After a couple minutes of drawing time, continue with the story.

Leader Tip: For the sake of time, put a time limit on drawing.

Encourage kids to complete their sketches at home if they don't finish during the allotted time. Or, if kids have time at the end of the lesson, they can return to their drawings.



Flying above the Lord's throne were unique angelic beings called seraphs. Let's draw a seraph together in the second box. Point to the top box on the right on the front of the Scenes Sheet and the corresponding box on the whiteboard or flip chart. **Listen to what they were like: the seraphs had six wings, but only used two to fly. They covered their faces with two wings because the Lord's presence was too bright to witness. They also covered their feet with the last two wings to show honor to the Lord.**

In the top box on the right on the whiteboard or flip chart, consider sketching an image that resembles the description of a seraph, or simply write the word "seraph." Encourage kids to use their imaginations as they draw this six-winged creature. After a couple minutes of drawing time, continue with the story.

The seraphs sang about the Lord's great power. Their voices were so powerful the stone doorframe shook, and the temple filled with smoke.

This overwhelming scene caused Isaiah to worry because he realized he was an unholy person in the presence of the most holy God! Holy means being pure, spotless, and without sin or wrongdoing. Isaiah feared he would be destroyed because he knew God doesn't allow sin in His presence. Isaiah cried out and admitted his sin.

But God had chosen Isaiah as His messenger, so God would wash away his sin. One of the seraphs used tongs to pick up a hot coal and then flew to Isaiah. The seraph touched Isaiah's lips with the coal, and Isaiah's guilt and sin were taken away! Isaiah could now speak with the Lord.

Let's draw a picture of Isaiah's lips getting touched by the coal.

Show kids the bottom-right box on the front of the Scenes Sheet. Encourage younger kids to draw a hot coal on top of the lips and to color the lips. Older kids can free-draw a hot coal touching lips. In the corresponding box on the whiteboard or flip chart, consider drawing lips and coal or simply writing the words "coal touching lips." After about a minute of drawing time, continue with the story.

After this, God asked, "Who will I send?" (Isaiah 6:8). The Lord wanted to send a messenger to His people and was calling Isaiah to go. Isaiah was encouraged by God's mercy and forgiveness, and he stood up and said, "Here I am. Send me!" Let's draw Isaiah volunteering to be God's messenger!

Ask kids to flip to the back side of their sheets. Encourage younger kids to connect the dots in the upper-left box to draw a raised hand and then color it in. (The raised hand represents Isaiah volunteering to be God's messenger!) Older kids can free-draw a raised hand or, more specifically, Isaiah raising his hand. Consider drawing a hand on the corresponding box on the whiteboard or flip chart or writing the words "raised hand." After a couple minutes of drawing time, continue with the story.

God chose to send Isaiah to His people, but He warned Isaiah that they would choose not to understand His message. Israel wouldn't pay attention to God's words; their ears would be plugged up, and their eyes would be closed to God. But Isaiah must speak the truth to them anyway. Let's show the stubbornness of the Israelites in the bottom-left box.

Point to the bottom-left box on the backside of the Scenes Sheet and the corresponding box on the whiteboard or flip chart. Encourage younger kids to color the ear and eye images and then draw an X over them to show that the people wouldn't listen to or see and understand God's message from Isaiah. Encourage older kids to draw ears and eyes and draw an X over each. Consider doing the same in the box on the flip chart or whiteboard or writing the words "plugged ears and closed eyes." After a couple minutes of drawing time, continue with the story.

.Isaiah was troubled at the Lord’s words. He asked, “Lord, how long will it be like that?” (Isaiah 6:11). The Lord told him that the kingdom of Israel would continue to disobey until it was conquered, and all its people were taken away and forced to live in their enemy’s country. But God told Isaiah this would not be the end of Israel. God would preserve His people, and the day would come when He would rescue them. In the last box, let’s draw a picture that represents God’s plan.” Point to the large box on the right side of the back of the Scenes Sheet and the corresponding box on the whiteboard or flip chart. Encourage younger kids to connect the dots to reveal a scroll and then draw a large heart around it. Invite older kids to draw an old-fashioned scroll with a heart around it.

SLIDE: SCROLL

On the whiteboard or flip chart, you might draw the same or write the words “God’s plan.” Give kids about a minute to draw; then continue with the story.

God would never leave His people, and He would continue to remind them through His messengers that He is with them. God calls people to be His messengers.”



Encourage kids to take their Scene Sheets home to complete their pictures if they didn’t have time to draw all the details they wanted during group time. They can use their pictures to help them retell this part of God’s big story to their families!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO BE HIS MESSENGERS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

One word picture the Bible uses to describe sin—the wrong things we do—is to be dirty. Isaiah couldn't wash himself clean of his sin; only God could do that! Many years later, Jesus died on the cross so everyone who trusts in Him could be washed clean of sin and be with God.]"



Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

WORSHIP VIDEO: Exalt Thee/I Speak Jesus



Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May God bless and keep you as you go this week. Know that He makes you holy through Jesus, and He invites you to share His message of love in your world!