

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 will never leave us. —from Hebrews 13:5b

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- **Curiosity Activity: Creating a Throne**
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Calls People to Be His Messengers

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 6

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

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 gave of Himself on the cross to cleanse all who trust in Him so they too can be with God.



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Calls People to Be His Messengers

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 6

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Curiosity Activity: Creating a Throne

SUPPLIES: chair, bedsheet, long robe or large piece of colorful fabric, tulle or sparkly metallic fabric (optional)
Before kids arrive, build a "throne" using any of the supplies above. If you have extra time or resources, feel free to make the throne more extravagant! You could add things like tulle and sparkly or metallic fabric.

"Has anyone ever seen a picture of a king? Invite kids to share their responses. **Does anyone know what a king sits on?** Allow kids to share their thoughts. **That's right! A king sits on a throne. A throne is a big, beautiful chair that only someone who is royalty—like a king or queen—gets to sit on.**

In today's God's big story, a man named Isaiah gets to see God on His throne! I think we should make our own throne. Will you help me?

Isaiah saw God on His throne, and the back of God's robe filled the whole temple. Amazing!

Invite some volunteers to take turns sitting on it. **Today we're going to learn about how Isaiah was God's messenger—he told people what God said. When you sit on the throne, you can share this message with all the kids around you: God calls people to be His messengers!"**

Let kids shout out the phrase while they sit on the throne. Keep the throne set up for God's Big Story.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Leader: Tac? (Look around.) Taa-aac? (Tac appears.) Oh. Tac! I was looking for you! Are you OK? You look like you just woke up.

Tac the Cat: (Tac rubs his eyes.) I guess I fell asleep! Yaaaawwwn. I took a little cat nap.

Leader: I love having a good nap.

Tac the Cat: Oh, me too! Napping in the sun is the best! But ... this nap wasn't great.

Leader: Why not, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Well, I woke up because I had such a weird dream.

Leader: Ooh, dreams are interesting! Tell me about it, Tac.

Tac the Cat: I dreamed I caught a fish. And I was just about to have a little fishy treat for my afternoon snack, but then the fish looked right at me and talked!

Leader: Well, that's weird! Fish don't talk.

Tac the Cat: That's what I thought too, but the fish looked at me and said it had something very important to tell me. So I leaned in closer to hear what he wanted to say.

Leader: And then what happened, Tac?

Tac the Cat: I couldn't hear him, so I leaned in even closer, and the fish bit my ear and wiggled out of my paws! No snack for me.

Leader: Oh, Tac! What a funny dream! Dreams can be so wonderful or scary or fascinating. Did you know that God sometimes speaks to people in dreams?

Tac the Cat: He does?

Leader: Yes! In the Bible, God spoke to people in dreams. Today we're going to learn about how God spoke to a man named Isaiah in a vision—a vision is like a dream. God showed him amazing things and He gave Isaiah a message!

Tac the Cat: Wow! That is so cool! I want to hear all about it! But ... yaawwwwn ... I am feeling sleepy again, and that sunny corner over there looks just right for napping. Will you promise to tell me more after I take a little cat nap?

Leader: Of course I will, Tac! Have a good nap. Bye!

Tac the Cat: Bye. (Tac makes snoring sounds.)

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: why do you think we have weird dreams? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever told someone something really important? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God speaks to us?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO BE HIS MESSENGERS. Today we'll discover that God calls people to be His messengers!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

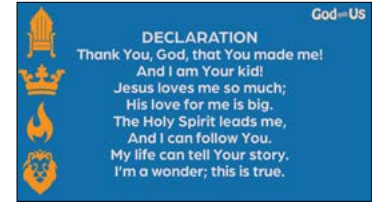
His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)
Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



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 for knowing and loving us! As we learn from Your Word today, allow Your Holy Spirit to help us understand what You're teaching us so we can be Your messengers too. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Isaiah had a wonderful vision where God called him to a special job. Let's sing about our great God and how He calls us to be His messengers!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: My Help, Praise

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Isaiah in the Bible."

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, throne from Curiosity Activity, tongs (plastic or metal)

RESOURCES: Throne from curiosity activity

Put the throne from the Curiosity Activity near the front of the room.

Gather everyone together. **"Let's all have a seat so we can learn about God's big story! I need your help telling God's big story today. Whenever we hear the word "messenger," everyone put your hands around your mouth like you're about to tell someone something.** Demonstrate how to cup your hands around your mouth and invite the kids to practice **Great job!**

Leader Tip: Consider inviting a couple of the older kids to stand at the front with you to help you demonstrate the actions to everyone.

Long ago, an enemy took God's people from their home. Now they lived in the enemy's land. But God was still with His people. God sent special people called messengers (encourage everyone to cup their hands around their mouths) **to talk to His people for Him. This is the story of how a man named Isaiah became a messenger** (have everyone cup their hands around their mouths) **for God.**

God wanted His people to know that He was still in charge even when bad things happened to them. God talked to Isaiah in a vision. A vision is a special picture from God. God sat on His great throne in this vision. God's robe was so big that it filled the whole space. Point to the throne and show the robe flapping out behind it.

There were creatures with wings flying around God's throne. Invite the kids to flap their arms like wings. **The creatures were called seraphim. They sang about how powerful God is. Smoke filled the space.** Invite everyone to use their hands to clear the air. **The vision made Isaiah think about how perfect God is. Isaiah also thought about how he was a human who sinned and did wrong things.**

But God picked Isaiah to be His messenger. Have kids cup their hands around their mouths. **God would take away Isaiah's sins, the wrong things he did. One of the flying creatures used tongs** (hold up the tongs) **to pick up a hot coal.** Demonstrate the action of picking something up with the tongs. **This creature flew to Isaiah. The flying creature touched Isaiah's lips with the coal.** Have the kids touch their lips with their hands. **Isaiah's sin was taken away! Now Isaiah could talk with God.**

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).

God asked, "Who will I send?" God wanted to send a messenger (have the kids cup their hands around their mouths) **to His people.**

God was asking Isaiah to go. Isaiah felt happy that God forgave him. Isaiah stood up and said, "Here I am. Send me!" Have all the kids raise their hands high in the air.

God sent Isaiah to speak God's words to His people. God warned Isaiah that the people would not listen and obey. But God still promised to be with His people and save them. God would never leave them. God kept sending messengers (have the kids cup their hands around their mouths) to remind His people He was with them. God calls people to be His messengers." Have the kids cup their hands around their mouths.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

One way the Bible describes sin—the wrong things we do—is as something that's 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."

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for cleansing us from our sins and calling us to Himself.

God, thank You for reminding us that You are holy and that You take away our sins through Jesus. Thank You for calling people to be Your messengers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God loves you and forgives your sin. Remember that you can tell others about Him each day! He is good and perfect.