

God Called Isaiah

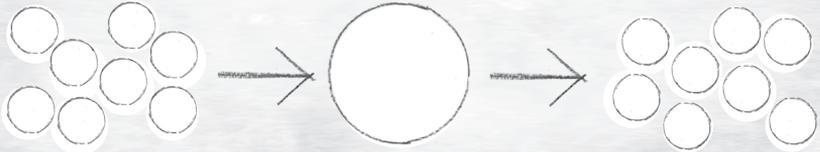
BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 6

MAIN POINT: Isaiah saw the holy God.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

SMALL GROUP OPENING (15–20 MINUTES) **PAGE 46** **LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY** (10–15 MINUTES) **PAGE 48** **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** (20–25 MINUTES) **PAGE 50**



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Leader BIBLE STUDY

King Uzziah's death marked the end of an era. His reign had been long and prosperous. Uzziah became king when he was 16, and he reigned over Judah for 52 years. Uzziah had listened to the prophet Zechariah; he feared God, and God made him prosper. But Uzziah's pride got the best of him. (See 2 Chron. 26:16.) God struck Uzziah with leprosy. Then Uzziah died.

Under Uzziah's leadership, God's people had turned away from the promises of God and trusted in the promises of the world around them. God had promised to bless the entire world through Abraham's family, but God's people were

rebellious. Instead of blessing, they set themselves up to receive God's judgment.

But God's plans and promises were not thwarted. God sent the prophet Isaiah to preach a message of hope. Even though God was going to correct His people through judgment, His purpose was one of grace through which God would receive glory. God planned to send a Messiah who would bring salvation to the world.

Isaiah 6 opens with Isaiah worshiping in the temple. Then God gave Isaiah a vision. Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne. Yes, in the year that King Uzziah died, God was sitting on the throne. God was reigning over the universe. The magnitude of God's holiness made Isaiah realize the magnitude of his own sin. His response? "Woe is me!"

God extended His grace to Isaiah. He took away Isaiah's guilt. God passed over Isaiah's sins because He was going to send Jesus to pay for them. In His death on the cross, Jesus paid for the sins—past, present, and future—of those who would trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, God says to us the words Isaiah heard: "Your guilt is taken away. Your sin is atoned for."

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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

God Called Isaiah

Isaiah 6

Isaiah was a prophet. God chose Isaiah to take God's message to His people. **One day**, when Isaiah was worshiping God in the temple, **God gave Isaiah a vision.** **A vision is like a dream, but Isaiah was awake.** **Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne.** God was **wearing a long robe.** It was **so long, it filled the temple!** **And creatures with wings were standing above God.** They said, **“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord. The whole earth is filled with His glory.”**

Isaiah knew he was with God. He said, **“Oh no! I am a sinner. I cannot be with God, or I will die! But I have seen Him!”**

Then one of the winged creatures flew to Isaiah. He touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal from the altar and said, **“Your guilt is gone, and your sin is wiped away.”**

Then God said, **“Whom should I send? Who will go for Us?”**

Isaiah said, **“Here I am! Send me.”**

God said, **“Go.”**

God said that His people would listen to Isaiah, but they would not understand what he said. **They would not turn from their sin and be rescued.**

“How long should I talk to them?” Isaiah asked. **“How long will they not listen?”**

God said, **“Keep telling them My message until their cities are destroyed. I am going to send the people far away.”**

God said that some of the people would come home

one day. Those people would be some of the only people left in Abraham's family. A long time ago, God promised to bless the world through Abraham's family. God was going to keep His promise; God always keeps His promises.

Christ Connection: Isaiah knew he was sinful and shouldn't be with God. God is holy. God forgave Isaiah's sin. Like Isaiah, our sin keeps us away from God. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to take away our sin. Only He can save us.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Isaiah responded gladly to God's calling. (Isa. 6:8) We have been forgiven from our sin; we joyfully tell others about salvation only through Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:20) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: God Called Isaiah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 6

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KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Welcome time

- “Only One True God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Trace the Path” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Lead preschoolers to trace the path with a pencil or crayon.
SAY • Good job tracing the path! In today’s Bible story, God told Isaiah to give His message to His people. God said the people wouldn’t listen to Isaiah. God was going to send the people away from their home, but one day He would bring them back again.

LOW PREP

- “Only One True God” song

Option: Tape a crown shape to a regular chair to make it “special.”

Play musical “throne”

Arrange chairs in a circle facing outward, one for each preschooler. Replace one regular chair with a chair of a different color or style than the others. Call the “special” chair the “throne.” Play music as preschoolers walk around the chairs. When the music stops, each child must sit in a chair. The child sitting in the “throne” asks the big picture

question, *How many gods are there?* The group responds with the answer, *There is one true God.*

SAY • In today's Bible story, God gave the prophet Isaiah a vision. Isaiah saw someone sitting on a throne. Let's find out whom Isaiah saw.

Make a kaleidoscope

Provide each preschooler with a paper towel tube. Invite preschoolers to decorate their tube with markers and stickers. Form a tube with foil making sure the shiny side faces inward and place it inside the paper towel tube. Allow the foil to expand to line the inside of the tube. Secure black construction paper to one end of the tube with a rubber band. Punch a viewing hole in the construction paper with a pencil.

Cut two 4-inch squares of clear cellophane for each child. Invite preschoolers to place colored sequins and translucent beads between the two cellophane squares. Center the cellophane squares over the other end of the tube and secure the squares to the tube with a rubber band. Invite preschoolers to look inside their kaleidoscope.

SAY • What do you see inside your kaleidoscope? In our Bible story today, Isaiah saw something amazing—way more amazing than what's inside a kaleidoscope! Listen to the Bible story to find out what Isaiah saw.

- paper towel tubes, 1 per child
- markers
- stickers
- foil or shiny wrapping paper
- black construction paper
- pencil
- clear cellophane
- scissors
- translucent beads
- rubber bands
- sequins

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to play out wearing binoculars as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: God Called Isaiah

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How many gods are there? There is one true God.

Introduce the Bible story

Ask preschoolers if they have ever seen certain things, such as a sunrise, a bear, a mountain, a dolphin, or lightning.

SAY • Have you ever seen God? We can see God's handiwork all around us, but none of us have seen God face to face. In today's Bible story, Isaiah saw God in a vision. Let's hear how Isaiah responded.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Isaiah 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible tells us what God is like and what He has done. We can believe the Bible because it is God's true words to us. Today's Bible story comes from Isaiah.

Show the Bible story video "God Called Isaiah," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided.

Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • **Isaiah saw the holy God.** Isaiah knew he was sinful and shouldn't be with God. God forgave Isaiah's sin. Like Isaiah, our sin keeps us away from God. But

- bookmark
- Bible
- "God Called Isaiah" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

God sent His Son, Jesus, to take away our sin. Only He can save us.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Isaiah say, “Oh no!” when he realized he was seeing God? (*because he was a sinner*)
2. With what did a winged creature touch Isaiah’s mouth? (*a burning coal from the altar*)
3. How did Isaiah answer when God asked, “Who will go for Us?” (*“Here I am! Send me.”*)
4. What did God say some of the people would do one day? (*come home*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Remember the answer to our big picture question?

How many gods are there? There is one true God.

The one true God is holy. He is set apart. There is no one like Him.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Hebrews 1:1-2. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, “Speaking to Us.”

SAY • God gave His message to His people through the prophet Isaiah. The message was sad, but God said He would bring His people home one day. God sent someone better than a prophet to give us His greatest message. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take away our sin so we can live forever with our holy God.

• Key Passage Poster
• “Speaking to Us” song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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Scatter and send

Lead preschoolers to spread out. One at a time, call a preschooler's name and invite her to respond, "Here I am!" Then she must find a friend and say, "God loves you!"

Play until every child's name has been called and every child has been told that God loves him or her.

SAY • When I called you, you gave a message to a friend.

When **Isaiah saw the holy God**, God called Isaiah to be a prophet. Isaiah gave God's message to His people. God was going to send His people away, but one day God would bring His people home. God would keep His promise to bless the world through Abraham's family. We get God's blessing through His Son, Jesus.

Learn about the word *holy*

Provide several different bins, each one filled with one type of similar items. You may choose to use blocks, feathers, craft sticks, chenille stems, pom-poms, or other items you have readily available. In each bin, bury one additional item that is a completely different kind from the other items in its bin. You may choose to use a piece of jewelry, an elegant



- bins
- various items that are similar
- various items that are different

scarf, or a shiny coin.

Invite preschoolers to dig through each bin, looking for the special item. Allow them to take turns burying and uncovering the special items in each bin.

SAY • Isaiah saw the holy God. The special item in each bin reminds us of God. God is holy. *Holy* means “set apart.” God is different from everything else on earth or in all creation. He is one and only. God is better and bigger than anything we can see or even understand. This holy God sent His very own Son, Jesus, to save us.

Draw with charcoal

Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Roll up sleeves and cover each child’s clothing with a smock. Provide a sheet of construction paper and a charcoal pencil or stick for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to draw freely with the charcoal. Show them how to use their finger or a cotton swab to smudge the charcoal.

SAY • Isaiah saw the holy God. Isaiah knew he was sinful and shouldn’t be with God. A winged creature touched Isaiah’s mouth with a burning coal from the altar. God forgave Isaiah’s sin. Like Isaiah, our sin keeps us away from God. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to take away our sin. Only He can save us.

- plastic tablecloth
- smocks
- charcoal pencils or compressed charcoal sticks
- construction paper
- wipes for cleanup
- cotton swab (optional)

Play with tongs

Set out black pom-poms. Provide a preschooler with a set of small plastic tongs. Invite her to use the tongs to place the pom-poms in the muffin pan. Challenge her to count the pom-poms as she moves them.

SAY • When Isaiah saw the holy God, he knew he

- small plastic tongs
- black pom-poms
- muffin pan

shouldn't be with God because of his sin. The Bible tells us that a winged creature used tongs to take a burning coal from the altar to touch Isaiah's lips. God forgave Isaiah's sin. We are sinners, too. We should not be with God either. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to take away our sin. Only He can save us.

Look at songs about God's holiness

Gather sheet music, songbooks, and hymnals for preschoolers to look through. Write *holy* on a sheet of paper. Challenge preschoolers to find *holy* in some of the song lyrics. Consider teaching preschoolers the third verse of the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy."

SAY • Many of the songs we sing at church use the word *holy*. That is because God's holiness makes Him different from anyone or anything else. When **Isaiah saw the holy God**, he realized how ugly his sin was. He was afraid. God forgave Isaiah's sin. Our holy God forgives our sin, too, when we turn from our sin and trust in Jesus.

- hymnals
- sheet music
- songbooks
- paper
- marker

Tip: Contact your worship pastor for materials.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Call each preschooler by name as you serve snack. Invite preschoolers to respond with “Here I am!” Remind preschoolers that after God forgave Isaiah’s sin, God asked whom He should send. Isaiah said, “Here I am! Send me.” When we understand how much God has forgiven us, we want to tell everyone about Him!

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of the most beautiful thing they can imagine. Remind preschoolers that **Isaiah saw the holy God**. Nothing we will ever see or could ever imagine compares to the beauty of our holy God. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, You are a holy God. We are sinners and deserve to be punished, but You forgive our sin when we put our trust in Your Son, Jesus. Let our love for You and what You have done for us make us want to tell other people about how good You are. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*