

Living the Word: Teaching Youth God's Story

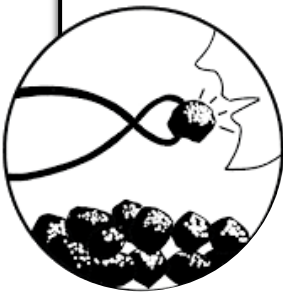
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3

A Vision of God in the Temple

Isaiah 6:1-8

Lesson #3-10

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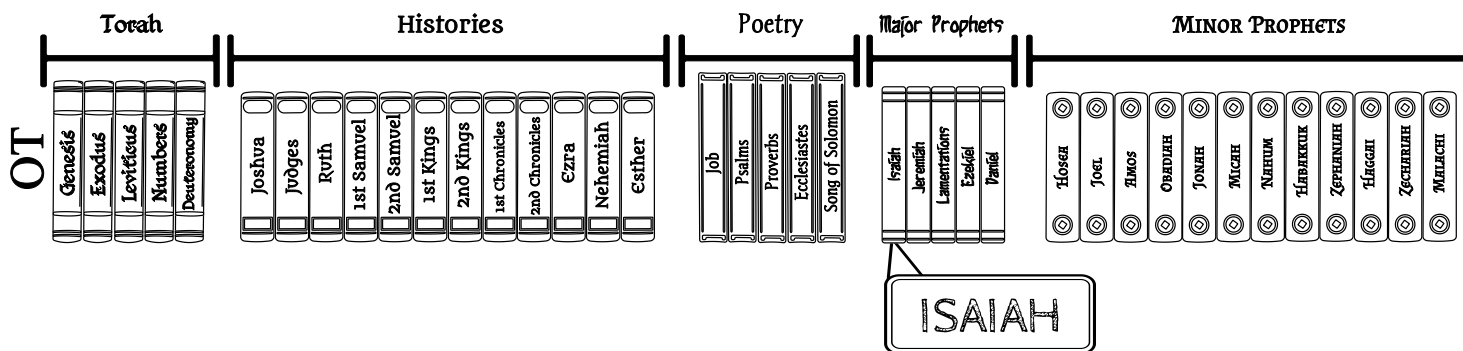
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A Vision of God in the Temple

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah received his calling as a prophet while in the temple. His prophecies would tell of the coming Messiah and the Kingdom of God.

Story Connections

God sightings are found throughout the Histories and the Prophets. The widow of Zarephath saw God in the miracle of ongoing supplies, Jonah saw God in the storm and in the fish, and in today's reading, Isaiah sees the holiness of God in a temple vision.

Story Summary

A Vision of God in the Temple

Isaiah was a man who served God, who was drawn to the temple where he saw God. Upon

Lesson @ A Glance

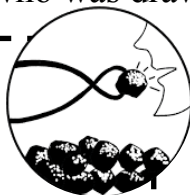
#3-10: A Vision of God in the Temple
Isaiah 6:1-8

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

Making Connections: God Sightings

Spiritual Practice Emphasis: Service

Bible Nuts and Bolts: The Temple



the sight of God's glory, Isaiah not only realized how majestic and perfect God is, but also was faced with his own imperfection. When standing before the holy God, Isaiah felt unworthy. A winged heavenly being that flew near the throne worshipping God touched Isaiah's lips with coal and told him that his sins were forgiven. Then Isaiah knew that God had a specific reason for drawing him to the temple, and had called him to be a prophet with a special message. When God asked who should be sent, Isaiah replied, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

The Point

The story of Isaiah shows how God calls imperfect people into God's service, including us! 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 used them despite their imperfections.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I! Send me."
Isaiah 6:8

Bible Nuts & Bolts: Temple

After years of wandering in the wilderness with a portable tent of worship (the 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. Upon Jesus' death on the cross, the veil closing off the Holy of Holies was torn in half, setting loose God's presence to all people everywhere!

For Your Reflection:

1. *How were you called to serve the youth of your congregation?*
2. *What is an example of a time when you felt inadequate for service?*
3. *How can you assure the youth that they can serve God in a unique way just as they are?*

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 contrite heart? Say with conviction, "Here am I! Send me!"

Overview, Objectives, and Materials You'll Need

Core Elements

+Into the Story

10 min. › None

Face to Face

Role play meeting heroes and role models.

+Learning the Story

15 min. › Bibles

Here I Am

Open the Scripture to see God through Isaiah's eyes.

Living the Story

15 min. › Activity Sheet #3-10.A

Callings

Hear from those who have been called into service .

+Sending the Story

5 min. › None

Short on time?
Items marked +
can be adjusted to be done with
what you probably already
have in your pocket or
classroom.

Extending the Learning:

Hands On <i>Charcoal Message</i> <i>Use charcoal to write out the key verse.</i>	15 min.	› Bibles › Drawing charcoal › Plain paper › Paper towels › Optional: Internet-connected device
Mixed Media <i>Hashtag Holy</i> <i>Create hashtags and post lines related to today's Scripture reading.</i>	15 min.	› Bibles › Internet-connected device(s)
+The Competitive Edge <i>What's My Line?</i> <i>Use clues to identify vocations.</i>	15 min.	› White board › Markers
Simply Serving <i>Provisions</i> <i>Make preparations.</i>	20 min.	› None
+Worship Connection <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> <i>Share Isaiah's awe for God through focused worship.</i>	15 min.	› Activity Sheet #3-10.B

Into the Story: Face to Face (10 minutes)

Role-play meeting heroes and role models.

DURING CLASS:

Supplies:

› Nothing

1. **Have you ever looked up to someone and then had an opportunity to meet that person face-to-face?** *[Answers will vary.]* **Was it an athlete, a celebrity, a musician?** *[Answers will vary.]* **What was that experience like?** *[Answers will vary.]* **Was the person all that you expected?** *[Answers will vary]* **How did you react when in that person's presence?** *[Answers will vary.]*
2. **If you have not done so, who would you like to meet face-to-face?** *[Answers will vary.]* **Why?** *[Answers will vary.]* **What would you like to say to that person?** *[Answers will vary.]*
3. **Let us have a little fun. I need a volunteer to pretend to be the celebrity that another youth wants to meet. The two of you can role play the face-to-face meeting for us.** After the first two finish, ask for volunteers to role play meeting a different celebrity.
4. After a few more role plays ask, **what would it be like for you to meet God, face-to-face?** *[Answers will vary.]* **How would you respond if you heard God saying your name?** *[Answers will vary.]* **What do you imagine God looking like?** *[Answers will vary.]*
5. **Isaiah met God in the temple, and today we are going to take a close look at Isaiah's glimpse of God.**

Learning the Story:

Here I Am (15 minutes)

Open the Scripture to see God through Isaiah's eyes.

DURING CLASS:

Supplies:

> Bibles

1. Close your eyes and imagine yourself being transported into a large temple. At first it seems like you are the only one in the place, but then you realize you are not alone. There is a presence like you have never experienced before. It overwhelms you. Pause. You hear the voice of God calling your name. Pause. You see God. Pause.
2. Open your eyes. Remember what you imagined as we take a look at what Isaiah saw when he was drawn into the temple and had a vision of God.
3. Open your Bibles to Isaiah 6.
4. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 6:1.
5. **How is God described in this verse?** *[High and lofty, sitting on a throne, the hem of his robe filled the temple.]* **Did anyone picture God up high? If so, why?** *[Answers will vary.]* **Did anyone picture God on a throne? If so, what did the throne look like?** *[Answers will vary.]* **Touch the hem of your pants or skirt. Imagine that hem being so large that it fills the temple. What does that say about God's robe?** *[Answers will vary, but it must have been enormous.]* **What do these descriptions—high, throne, and huge robe—tell us about God?** *[Answers will vary; God is bigger than anything we can imagine, God is powerful, God is king or ruler, God is glorious, God is to be respected or revered, etc.]*
6. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 6:2.
7. **Seraphim are heavenly beings with wings. Some scholars think they are a type of angel, but not the type that delivered messages. From what we read in the Bible, they surround God. Did anyone imagine God being surrounded by anything other than God's own glory? If so, describe what you saw.** *[Answers will vary.]*
8. **Why do you think the six winged seraphim covered their faces and feet with four of their wings?** *[Answers will vary; they can't look at God, out of respect for God.]*
9. **Let us read Isaiah 6:3 aloud together.** After the reading, pause. **Let us read it again, louder and in a worshipful tone.**
10. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 6:4.
11. **Imagine being Isaiah, transported to this vision of God. There you are seeing God up high on a throne, hem filling the temple, seraphim flying around, and you hear one say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). The door posts shake and the place fills with smoke. How would you feel?** *[Answers will vary.]* **What would you say?** *[Answers will vary.]*

12. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 6:5.
13. **Why do you think Isaiah realized his imperfection when he saw God?** *[Answers will vary; next to God's holiness, the smallest imperfection would stand out, God is great, etc.]*
14. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 6:6-7.
15. **Here Isaiah felt unworthy before a holy God, and now this! Imagine Isaiah's reaction when he was told that his sins were blotted out. How do you think he felt when he heard those words?** *[Answers will vary; overcome with emotion, freed, thankful, humbled, undeserving, like he wanted to do anything to show his gratitude, etc.]*
16. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 6:8.
17. **Look at the contrast between what Isaiah said in verse 5 and what he said at the end of verse 8. What led to that change of heart?** *[Answers will vary. He experienced God's love and forgiveness; he realized that if God has a job for him to do, no flaw can hold him back; he saw that God can use him—that God values his service, etc.]*
18. **Where are you in this story today? Are you living in verse 5 or the last line of verse 8?** *[Answers will vary.]*
19. **What, if anything, in today's reading speaks to you about how God can use you for service?** *[Answers will vary.]*
20. **Whenever you have feelings of being small and unworthy or doubts of your usefulness to God, turn back to this passage in Isaiah. Read verses 5-8, and ask God to help you say, "Here am I, send me!"**

Living the Story:

Callings (15 minutes)

Hear from those who have been called to service.

BEFORE CLASS:

Supplies:

› Activity Sheet #3-10.A

1. Invite members of the church to come in and share how they knew they were called to do certain things in the church (organist, choir director, nursery worker, cook, usher, media technician, parking lot attendant, finance committee member, etc.) Explain that they need only share a few words about finding this niche or calling, about any apprehensions they may have had at first, and about what they do.
2. Print and cut the cards on Activity Sheet #3-10.A.
3. Set up chairs for the panel of servants.

DURING CLASS:

1. Give each of four youth a notecard.
2. **The point in the story of Isaiah that we are focusing on today is that God calls imperfect people into God's service, including us. I have invited members of the church to share a little with us this morning about their service here.**
3. **Those with the notecards will ask questions, and we can then hear the answers from each of our guests.**
4. You can decide if you want the youth to ask the same question of each of the guests, and then move on to the next question, or if you want them to fully interview one guest at a time.
5. After the activity, address the guests: **Thank you for serving us today by giving the youth ideas for service, and for showing us that that ordinary people can serve God in all kinds of ways.** Lead the youth in a round of applause.

Hands On: Charcoal Message (15 minutes)

Use charcoal to write out the key verse.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Optional: cue <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk2CHhjIFj4> (“Here I Am, Lord”, music and words by Dan Schutte) .

Supplies:

- › Bibles
- › Drawing charcoal
- › Paper (not glossy)
- › Paper towels
- › Optional: Internet-connected device

DURING CLASS:

1. Optional: play “Here I Am Lord” during this activity.
2. Distribute charcoal, paper, and paper towels.
3. **This is an activity of personal reflection. Please stay quiet as you complete the activity, and think only about the words that you are writing** (or the words in the music).
4. **Turn your Bibles to Isaiah 6:8. Using the charcoal, carefully copy the verse from the Bible to the paper.** (Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6:8). **If you want to, sign your name at the bottom. If you need additional paper towels to wipe charcoal from your hands or elsewhere, let me know.**
5. After the activity ask, **How did you feel when writing that verse?** *[Answers will vary; comfortable, uncomfortable, scared, excited, motivated, etc. Accept all answers.]*

Mixed Media: Hashtag Holy (15 minutes)

Create hashtags or post lines related to today's Scripture lesson.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. If the youth of your church do not have a designated and private Facebook or twitter account, create one for them to use for this activity.

Supplies:

- › Bibles
- › Internet-connected device(s)

DURING CLASS:

1. Divide the youth into small groups.
2. **In twitter and Instagram we use hashtags (#) to tag words in our status or posts that will then link to all other pictures or posts referencing that word.** As a group, come up with as many creative hashtags as you can that relate to Isaiah 6:1-8.
3. **Using the youth group's twitter or Facebook account, message the other groups by posting messages including your hashtags.**
4. If you are not using social media: **Exchange cell phone numbers with members of the other groups and text your hashtags from group to group.**
5. To wind down the activity, ask for each group to share what they think are the top three hashtags from the activity. Suggest they use them during the week when they communicate with youth who are here today.

The Competitive Edge:

What's My Line? (15 minutes)

Use clues to identify vocations.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. If you are unfamiliar with the old television game show, What's My Line, you might want to watch this, although the directions below may be sufficient: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5IwQ2mLX4&list=PLqsaqh5sqUxqkNGHbNWOy9fK82pcv1jw>.

Supplies:

- › White board
- › Markers

DURING CLASS:

1. **Keep the answer to the following question a secret: if you could do anything with your life, even if you feel you couldn't possibly be able to do it or have that vocation or job, what would it be?**
2. **We are going to play a game called "What's My Line?" The first player will stand up and sign in on the white board. The rest of you will ask questions to get clues to help you figure out what vocation the player was thinking of when I asked: "If you could do anything with your life, even if you feel you couldn't possibly be able to do it or have that vocation or job, what would it be?"**
3. **When someone guesses the answer correctly, we will stop and pray for that player to be confident and enabled to do things for God.**
4. **The person who guessed the vocation correctly becomes the next player to sign in, and the game continues the same way.**
5. **When the game ends, pray the prayer again for all the youth present.**

Sample prayer:

God, please bless (youth's name) with the confidence and ability to do what you call (him or her) to do. Amen.

Simply Serving: Provisions (20 minutes)

Make preparations.

Before Class:

1. Review notes from last week and see if there are any supplies you need to have before class today, e.g. boxes for food, poster paper for posters, etc.
2. (If necessary) check with youth who had tasks during the week.

Supplies

› Nothing

DURING CLASS:

1. **Last week we narrowed our project to one of three service activities: collecting food and distributing it from the church; serving food at the church while distributing food from the church; or collecting and bagging food for others at church to take and drop off at specific locations.**
2. **Last week we also worked out the logistics of our service project and assigned tasks. How are you coming along with your assigned tasks?**
3. **Today we will move into making the final preparations for the service that we will complete next week.**
4. What happens next depends in part on the scope of the project and on the decisions made last week related to steps and tasks. If the youth are collecting food donations, this time will be spent standing at the door waiting for donations to be dropped off, logging, and sorting the donations. Youth should reach out to help carry items rather than sitting as they see donations arrive. If they are planning to serve food while distributing food, some might be making cookies to serve while others are collecting donations. If they are collecting and bagging food, then some will be accepting the donations while others count, evenly distribute, and bag them.
5. At the end of the time, items will be locked in a safe place (in tight containers) to be distributed next week.
6. Review each person's role in the activity that will take place next week. Set a time for everyone to arrive and be in their places.
7. End with a prayer for the youth and for the recipients of the service activity.

God, help us serve you by serving others. We pray for this project to run smoothly and for those who need what we have to give to be blessed by this service. Amen.

Worship Connection:

Holy, Holy, Holy (15 minutes)

Share Isaiah's Awe for God.

BEFORE CLASS:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet 3-10.B for each youth.
2. Cue <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414dGGTedpM> ("Holy Holy Holy" - Hillsong United (lyrics) (3:23))

Supplies

- › Activity Sheet #3-10.B
- › Internet-connected device

DURING CLASS:

1. This worship activity connects with Isaiah's God-sighting. Youth will recite Revelation 4:8, each time emphasizing a different word.
2. Distribute copies of Activity Sheet #3-10.B.
3. **We are going to recite Revelation 4:8. When we come to a word in boldface, we will emphasize that word and consider its meaning.**
4. Follow this with the music video that is waiting in cue.
5. **During the playing of "Holy, Holy, Holy," you can sit quietly, move around, sing along, close your eyes, or worship in your own way.**

Sending the Story (5 minutes)

Review and questions.

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

- **What changed Isaiah's thoughts or fears about serving God?** *[God showed him through the seraphim that he was whole in God's sight, that God could use him.]*
- **How has your view of serving God been impacted by today's discussion and activities?**
[Answers will vary.]

When we imagine ourselves standing before the Almighty, holy God, our knees should buckle. Chances are that if we came face to face with God, we would drop to the floor at God's feet in worship. Get down on the floor, face down, with your hands over your faces, think about the mighty power of God, and the great love God has for you. Repeat this verse after me as our closing prayer.

**"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory." Amen.**

Remember to send "The Story @ Home" take home sheet with students before dismissing them.

Callings

Hear from those who have been called to service.

1. What do you do in your service to God?	2. What made you want to try doing this service?
3. Have you ever felt worried about being able to do a good job?	4. What is the best part of what you do?

Holy. Holy. Holy

Share Isaiah's Awe for God.

“**Holy**, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.”

“Holy, **holy**, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.”

“Holy, holy, **holy**, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.”

“Holy, holy, holy, **the Lord** God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.”

“Holy, holy, holy, the Lord **God** the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.”

“Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God **the Almighty**, who was and is and is to come.”

“Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, **who was** and is and is to come.”

“Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and **is** and is to come.”

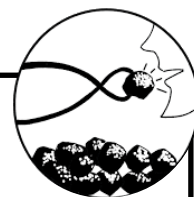
“Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and **is to come**.”

Revelation 4:8

A Vision of God in the Temple

The Story @ Home + Youth #3-10

Isaiah 6:1-8



The Point

The story of Isaiah shows how God calls imperfect people into God's service, including us! Today's story is important because we see that God can use us just as we are. We only need to be willing to serve. Isaiah was humbled in the presence of a holy God. He felt inadequate. God used Isaiah to proclaim the important message of the future Messiah and the world to come.

Story Connections

God sightings are found throughout the Histories and the Prophets. The Widow of Zarephath saw God in the miracle of ongoing supplies, Jonah saw God while running in the other direction, and in today's reading, Isaiah sees the holiness of God in a temple vision. God appears to people in different ways. We can experience God sightings, if we seek to recognize them.

Story Summary

A Vision of God in the Temple

Isaiah was a man who served God. He received his calling in the temple where he had a vision of God.

Upon the sight of God's glory, Isaiah not only realized how majestic and perfect God is, but he also was faced with his own imperfection. When standing before the holy God, Isaiah's response was, "Woe is me!" A heavenly being called a seraphim touched Isaiah's lips with coal and told him that his sins were forgiven. Then Isaiah knew that God had a specific reason for drawing him to the temple, and had called him to be a prophet with a special message. When God asked who should be sent, Isaiah replied, "Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Isaiah did not feel worthy to do anything for a holy God.

Spiritual Practice: Service

When Isaiah was called into service for God, he felt inadequate before 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 contrite 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!"

Last Week/Next Week

Last week, we saw the message of the prophet Jonah warning people to turn toward God and repent before it was too late. For the people that lived in Isaiah's day, it was already too late. His words delivered the fate to come (as well as hope for deliverance). Next week, just like Isaiah, Jeremiah deals with the rejection of God's word, an evil king and a group of unfaithful people.

Bible Nuts and Bolts: *The Temple*

After years of wandering in the wilderness with a portable tent of worship, 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. Upon Jesus' death on the cross, the Holy of Holies tore in half, setting loose God's presence to all people in all places.

Going Deeper

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? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✦ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✦ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✦ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✦ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday - Read Isaiah 6:1-8

A vision of God in the temple.

- If God were to call you today, what might hold you back?
- What would you like God to call you to do? Why?

Monday - Read Isaiah 11:1-9

God's peaceful kingdom ruling on earth.

- What are some other extreme opposites that do not coexist peacefully today?
- What is the difference between God's righteousness and our self-righteousness?

Tuesday - Read Isaiah 25:1-10a

Praise for deliverance from oppression.

- What are your thoughts about this future?
- What are you waiting on God for today?

Wednesday - Read Isaiah 38:1-8

Hezekiah's illness.

- Whose goodness did Hezekiah think determined God's healing?
- What words do you pray when pleading with God to heal someone?

Thursday - Read Isaiah 44:1-8

God's blessing on Israel.

- What does it mean to you that God is "the first and the last"?
- What does it mean to you to belong to the Lord?

Friday - Read Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah.

- How might a youth prophet be received by the various age groups in today's culture?
- What can you do to ensure that you use God's truths when you speak of God to others?

Saturday - Read 2 Kings 23:1-3,

21-25

Josiah's reformation.

- Is there anything you need to remove from your life in order to follow God more closely?
- What value do you place on reading and following the Bible?