

## Lesson #3-10

# *Isaiah's Vision in the Temple*

Isaiah 6:1-8



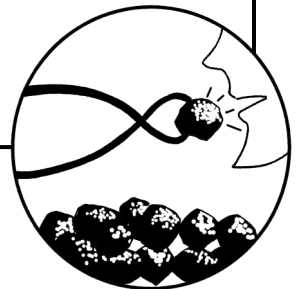
### Key Verse:

"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

### The Point:

God calls imperfect people to do God's work.



## *Introduction*

Isaiah was a man who served God. One day, he was led to go into the temple where he saw God. When he saw all of God's glory, he realized how magnificent and perfect God is. He also realized his own imperfections. "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.

### The Point

**God calls imperfect people to do God's work.**

Isaiah expressed his fear and concern that not only were the people he would serve unholy, but he was not holy enough to do God's work faithfully. Not one of us lives fully into the vision of holiness that we have either read about in Scripture or imagined might exist in Scripture. Yet, Isaiah's story reminds us that God's criteria for calling people into service is not what we expect. Instead, Isaiah's call story communicates how broad and wide the possibilities are for God's call.

# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Introduction

#### *Where Are You From?*

Share and compare life experiences.

10 min.

† None

### Learning the Story

#### *Angels Among Us*

Speak the angelic message.

10 min.

† Bibles  
† Activity Sheet #3-10.A  
† Tape  
† Scissors  
† Markers or crayons  
† Various craft supplies

### Activities

#### *Seeing God in the Temple*

Compare God in the temple with God in the church.

10 min.

† Bibles  
† Activity Sheet #3-10.B  
† Paper  
† Pens or pencils

#### *Beach Ball Prayers*

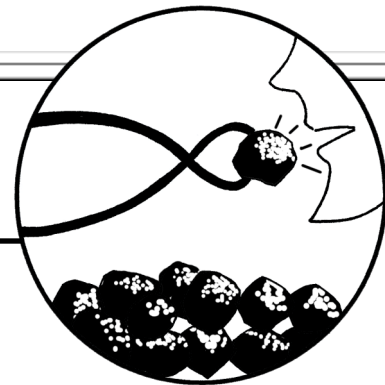
Consider the needs of others.

15 min.

† Beach ball  
† Permanent markers

### Prayer

# God's Story @ Home



## Introduction (10 minutes)

### Where Are You From?

Share and compare life experiences.

*Supplies:*

† None

*Instructions:*

1. **We are going to begin with a game. One person will share a brief line about an experience they have had. If you have had the same or similar experience, stand up. We will take turns being the leader. Examples of experiences you might share include:**
  - I have green eyes.
  - I have never lived in New York.
  - I am wearing sneakers today.
  - I am an only child.
  - I have been camping.
  - I have traveled to the African continent.
2. **We have just played a game highlighting how there are lots of different experiences each of us have had.**
  - Did anyone have an unusual experience that few others or no one else had?
  - What was it like to have no one stand up with you?
  - What was it like for everyone else who remained seated?
3. **Today we are going to hear a story from the Old Testament about one of God's prophet's named Isaiah. Isaiah had a very unique experience of seeing God in the temple and hearing God call him to share God's words of warning and blessing with God's people. Very few people throughout the story of God found in the Bible had an experience similar to Isaiah's. Sometimes the people who heard Isaiah's prophecies had a difficult time receiving what he had to say because their own experiences of seeing and hearing God were different than his. We will hear more about Isaiah's story and find out what it might mean for how we see and hear from God.**

# Learning the Story (10 minutes)

## Angels Among Us

Speak the angelic message.

### Supplies:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-10.A
- † Tape
- † Scissors
- † Markers or crayons
- † Various craft supplies

### Preparation:

1. Make two copies of Activity Sheet #3-10.A for each person.
2. Lay out activity sheets and ensure everyone has access to scissors, tape, and decorating materials.

### Instructions:

1. **There is an interesting and important detail in today's story that we do not want to miss. While the main focus of this story is about Isaiah's call to be a prophet, bringing God's messages of warning and blessing into the world, there are also other messengers in the story. Does anyone have an idea of the other messenger we hear about? [Angels.] The other messengers we hear about in the story are the seraphs. The seraphs are a special kind of angel who remain close to God. Our word "angel" is from a Greek word meaning "messenger." Angels bring important messages from God.**
2. **Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and pay special attention to the messages the seraphs share.**
3. **During your discussion, feel free to decorate your seraph wings located on the activity sheet. Cut them out once you are ready to use them. Once you have read the passage, discuss these questions:**
  - **What kinds of messages do the seraphs bring in the Isaiah reading?**  
*[Declaration of God's holiness; declaration of forgiveness or absolution for unholy living and having unholy lips.]*
  - **What other kinds of messages can you remember other angels bringing throughout the stories of Bible?**

- Are there ways we hear similar messages about God today? At church? In our home? In other places? Who are “angels” in our lives, sharing important messages about God?
4. Taping your seraph wings to the back of your shirt, please “fly” around the room and deliver an angelic message from God to each other. Messages might include:
- God forgives all of your sins!
  - You are clean, go in peace!
  - God is holy!
  - The whole earth is full of God's glory!

## Activity (10 minutes)

### Seeing God in the Temple

Compare God in the temple with God in the church.

#### Supplies:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-10.B
- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

#### Preparation:

1. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #3-10.B for each person.

#### Instructions:

1. **We are continuing to learn more about people called “prophets,” who God called to share words of blessing and warning with God’s people. Some of the prophets had amazing experiences when God called them into service. Some of the prophets heard God’s voice, and others, like Isaiah, actually saw visions of God. How would you know if something you saw was simply amazing or if you were actually seeing God?**
2. Read Isaiah 6:1-8 aloud.
3. **Isaiah’s story about his experience in the temple has a lot of information about what he saw and heard. While in the temple, Isaiah describes the throne room of God where there is lots of smoke. You can practically hear the hiss as the smoke rises. There are angels winging and singing loudly, so you may be able to hear the flap of wings and clash of notes. There are fiery coals, so you may be able to hear the sizzle. If you saw a picture with smoke rising, angels flapping about with their six wings and singing, and coals sizzling, would you have a clear sense of what was happening? How do you think Isaiah knew he was in the presence of God? Take a moment to discuss this together.**
4. **On your activity sheet you will find outlines of the temple where Isaiah worshipped. Fill in the picture with smoke, six-winged seraphs, God’s throne, and fiery coals. Draw an X over the places where you think Isaiah knew he was seeing God in the temple.**



5. Now, on a blank sheet of paper, draw a map of our church and sanctuary. Are there any smoke, six-winged angels, or burning coals in our church?
6. Isaiah had an amazing experience of seeing God in the temple, and that probably looks a lot different than how we see God in our own church building. Draw an X over the places in our church where you see similar things as Isaiah. How do you see God's presence in the holy place of the church's sanctuary? Draw a lightning bolt symbol next to other places where you see God's holy presence in church. Discuss the ways you see God in our church.

## *Activity (15 minutes)*

### *Beach Ball Prayers*

Consider the needs of others.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Beach ball
- † Permanent markers

#### *Instructions:*

1. In today's story we hear that Isaiah saw what something that he should not have seen: God. It is a holy experience to see God as Isaiah did. Most of us might not have the kind of experience of seeing God that way, yet we still claim to see God in the world in other ways.
2. When people are baptized, they are sealed with the mark of God using the sign of the cross placed on people's foreheads. Then, the pastor or another leader announces to the baptized in front of the congregation gathered something like, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven!" We believe that when we see the baptized people of God living out the promises of their baptism, we see God face-to-face. This means that people who are right there in our presence, whether it is at church or elsewhere, bring the face of God right to us.
3. Yet, just like the prophet Isaiah, even God's people often hide their difficulties. Many people hide the things they struggle with, their disappointments, and the pain they cause themselves and others. Just like Isaiah, all of God's people are hiding something that might make them cry out, "I am an unclean person!" In other words, "I mess up a lot."
4. Remember that when Isaiah cried out his fears about himself and the people around him, the angel took action to make him clean. Isaiah experienced how he could share his fears and shortcomings and still receive God's grace and calling. God promises to do the same thing for all the mess-ups that burden you and the people around you.
5. We are going to have an activity that helps us see God through the needs of others and serve them with care through prayer. First, blow up our beach ball.



6. **Now, using a marker, please turn to the (choose a color) section of your beach ball and write down the name or first initial of someone you know is struggling with sickness.**
7. Once the first person has had a moment to fill out that section of their ball, invite them to throw the beach ball into the air for another person to pick up. Pass the ball to a different person to complete each color.
8. **Please write the first name or first initial of people down in each new colored beach ball section for someone who needs prayers for:**
  - Struggling with grief
  - Struggling with hiding a secret
  - Struggling with fear
  - Struggling with anxiety
  - Struggling with causing others pain
  - Struggling with gossip
9. Once the ball is completely filled out, pray for the people on the ball throughout the upcoming week. With this ball, you can pray for people that God would be revealed and bring healing, wiping away their troubles, and then send them out to give the same message of grace and peace to others.



## *Prayer*

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Stand and pray together:

Leader: **Holy God, you call us to see you.**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **You call us to hear you.**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **You call us to know you.**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **You call us to share your face.**

All: Send me!

Leader: **You call us to be your voice.**

All: Send me!

Leader: **You call us to serve your people.**

All: Send me!

Leader: **Give us the strength, will, and courage to do all these things, in your Holy Name.**

All: Here I am! Send me! Amen!

If you have the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!

# *Angels Among Us*

*Speaking the angelic message.*





# Seeing God in the Temple

Comparing and contrasting God in the temple with God in the church.

