

Send Me!

The Call of Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STORE

Here I Am!



This passage from Isaiah is a wonderful reminder of God's power and might, and of our comparable sin and impurity. It also shows us the call of Isaiah as prophet. Isaiah was willing to be used by the Lord and spoke for Him to the people. This lesson reminds children that all of us can be used by God if we are willing. We should represent Jesus to others and be known for our faith.

This Old Testament story has wonderful Gospel connections. In this passage from Isaiah, the prophet was cleansed from sin when the seraphim touched his lips with coal from the altar. We don't need coal to cleanse us, though, because we are saved by the blood of Jesus! We recognize that we are sinful and in need of God's grace, but in Christ we are made new and free. That's the Gospel that we can share with others as we represent Jesus!

Passage: Isaiah 6:1-8

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade

Materials Needed: Paper bags, bowls, construction paper, decorative materials, scissors, tape, clothespins, popsicle sticks, assorted pictures, aluminum foil, Bible.

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "The Promise of a Savior](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story "God's Story: Isaiah"](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children and discuss mascots who represent things...

Hello, children of God!

Have you ever heard of a spokesperson? A spokesperson is someone who represents a group or a company and speaks for them. Sometimes it's sort of like a mascot. When you see that figure, you associate them with the group or company that they represent. I have a few examples here. I'm going to show you the pictures, and I want to see if you can identify the company or business that they speak for. *Present several images of famous mascots. Suggestions include the Energizer Bunny, Geico Gecko, Pillsbury Doughboy, Mickey Mouse, Tony the Tiger, etc.* When you see these characters, you think of the company they represent. They are linked. They speak for the group.

Did you know that God has spokespeople, too? Well, sort of. We call them "prophets." In the Bible, we see how God uses prophets to share His messages with people. He chose these messengers and called them to represent and speak for Him. Prophets told the people what God told them, even if it wasn't always what they wanted to hear. When the Israelites saw those prophets, they would link them with the Lord. One of these was Isaiah. When God first appeared to Isaiah, the prophet saw His tremendous power and glory, and heard a voice saying "who shall I send? Who will go for me?" Isaiah was quick to respond "Here I am! Send me!" He wanted God to use him and speak through him, and that's just what happened. Isaiah was the spokesman and representative for God.

We can be this way, too. Now, we might not be prophets quite like the people in the Old Testament. God might not give us special visions and messages (or then again, He might, you never know...). But we can be representatives of Jesus. We can share His good news with others around us. We should be demonstrating God's love in our words and actions,

and should be so connected with Him that other people think of Him when they see us. Just like those company mascots stand for a business, we are called to be ambassadors of Christ. We are called to represent Him. The word Christian actually means "little Christ." We want to be like Him and encourage others to know Him.

Just like Isaiah, we can also make ourselves willing to be used by God in any way possible. Whether we are sharing His word with crowds, churches, or just a friend next door, God can and will use our lives in remarkable ways. We can tell Him "send me!" just like Isaiah, and trust that He has great plans for our lives. Not only does He have a special plan and purpose, He also helps us to carry it out.

So represent Jesus! Be the spokesperson for your faith, and lead others to think of Him and want to know more about Him when they see you.

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for your power and glory

You have called us to serve you.

Please help us to represent your name

And share your good news with others.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)



This lesson features some remarkable descriptions of God's power and might, along with the importance of being willing to follow His call. God can and will use anyone for His work. We can gladly say along with the prophet "send me"! Get students ready to learn with some fun games and activities. Consider one of the following suggestions:

- Who wants to volunteer? Ask for a volunteer from the group, but after receiving one, explain that they will actually need to do a very difficult task, like lifting a heavy object or doing 50 jumping jacks. Explain that sometimes we volunteer for things without realizing the cost, but when we offer to serve God, He will always help with the task!
- Cleansing the lips: provide students with a taste of something very spicy or very salty, and have water available to quench their thirst. Explain that in the passage, Isaiah had his mouth cleansed (although ironically it was actually fire that made him clean, in that case).
- What does God look like? Read carefully the description of the seraphim in Isaiah 6:2-3. Invite students to draw as they listen, depicting what they think those creatures might have looked like.
- Coal and tongs relay: Have students line up in two groups for a relay race. One student at a time from each team will run down to the other end of a play area, and use tongs or clothespins to grab small balls of aluminum foil or rocks as "coal." Provide a time limit or see which team empties the coal bowl the fastest (note: save this game for after the craft time if using the suggested craft).
- Proclaim the message: in honor of the prophets who proclaimed God's messages, have students play a round of telephone. Or for a noisier version, invite them to see who can shout the loudest (while still giving a discernible message).
- Who's that mascot? As Isaiah was a spokesman, look at several well-known mascots or company representatives, and identify what group they go with.

Explain to students that the lesson describes how God called a prophet to speak to the people on His behalf. We can be used by God in remarkable ways, too!

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



The passage here describes some amazing attributes of God, along with the calling of the prophet Isaiah. It is not quite as interactive as other stories, but could still be made dramatic as you see fit. Students can help to tell the story and act it out, if you wish, or listen as you present the Scripture. Older students can help take turns reading, and you can read aloud and describe for younger students.

Isaiah 6:1-2 NIV *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. (2) Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.*

Explain that Isaiah is the speaker in these verses. He was called by God to be a prophet, and received a vision of Holy messengers. This passage describes those messengers. Often we think of angels as sweet feminine figures with wings and halos. Here, they are seen with multiple sets of wings, guarding the throne of the Lord.

Ask: How do you feel about this description? What would you think if you saw figures like this?

Isaiah 6:3-4 NIV *And they were calling to one another. "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." (4) At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

These words remind us of how mighty and powerful God is. The angels were singing and calling, repeating His holiness as the house shook and filled with smoke. Isaiah was overwhelmed by the whole scene, realizing that he was in the presence of God Himself.

Isaiah 6:5-6 NIV “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” (6) Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

Isaiah realized that he was tremendously unclean and sinful, and did not deserve to be in the presence of the Holy one. This is probably not the usual reaction we have to being in church or coming before the Lord in prayer. Of course, it's fine to talk casually with God, but sometimes it might help us to adopt an attitude of reverence and consider how great He is. What an honor and blessing that we are invited to be with Him and to pray to Him. Isaiah recognized his unworthiness before God, but a solution was already at hand. The seraphim was prepared to cleanse him and allow him to stand in the presence of the Most High.

***Ask:** Have you ever met someone very important? How did you feel or react with them? Do you ever think about how great God is?

Isaiah 6:7-8 NIV With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” (8) 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!”

This is an especially poignant part of the passage. First, Isaiah is cleansed by the coal from the seraphim. We recall that we are cleansed by the blood of Christ. Our sins, too, are atoned for. Then we have the question and response between God and Isaiah. God called

out to ask who would be His messenger and spokesman. Who could he send? And Isaiah knew that this call was for him. He told God that he would go for Him and share the words He would give.

Ask: What are things that you volunteer for? What things do you think you could do for God?

Remind students that, just as Isaiah was willing to be sent and used by God, we can be His servants and messengers, too. We can represent Christ in the way that we live, serve others, and tell others about Him. God can do amazing things when we are willing to let Him work through us. Just as Isaiah did, we can say "Here I am! Send me!"

Craft one: “Isaiah Paper Bag Puppet”

You will need:

- Paper bags
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Popsicle stick
- Cloth, google eyes, or cotton, if desired



Procedure:

1. Decorate a paper bag with facial features, including a large mouth.
2. Add clothing and hair, either drawn or glued pieces of paper/cloth.
3. Add a caption or verse and use a popsicle stick for the puppet to “hold” it.
4. Use the puppet to remember the story, or use it as part of the “Coal and Tongs Relay” game.



Craft Two: “Coal and Tongs Relay”

You will need:

- Aluminum foil or small rocks
- Clothespins
- Popsicle Sticks
- Foam or cardboard bowls
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Cardstock or construction paper
- Additional decoration as desired (stickers, etc.)



Procedure:

1. Decorate the “coal bowl” with stickers, colors, or other fun features.
2. Fill the bowl with small pieces of aluminum foil “coal” or small rocks.
3. Use hot glue or craft glue to secure popsicle sticks (large or regular size) to the sides of a clothespin. Decorate if desired.
4. Once dry, use the clothespin as a set of tongs. Race to transfer the “coals” from the bowl to another area or to the paper bag puppet Isaiah.



Isaiah 6:8 NIV

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 NIV

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!"



Word Search Puzzle

Isaiah - Prophet - King - Uzziah - Holy - Seraphim

Face - Glory - Wings - Unclean - Coal - Commission

P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I	Y	S	R	I
G	A	B	B	U	T	U	S	A	M	S	U
K	V	F	F	D	V	B	A	P	H	U	P
U	W	V	A	G	T	W	I	H	U	Q	T
X	X	B	C	I	Y	V	A	H	Q	H	Q
S	G	S	E	R	A	P	H	I	M	F	U
B	B	Z	R	N	L	S	I	L	W	W	N
S	M	E	G	U	Z	Z	I	A	H	I	C
K	C	O	M	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	L
V	I	A	X	M	F	C	O	A	L	G	E
W	Z	N	X	M	G	L	O	R	Y	S	A
T	X	E	G	A	U	Z	Z	E	X	N	N

Word Search Answers

