



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 specifics, 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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid); tape; coloring utensils

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Messenger Horns

Set-up: Roll up each sheet of paper into the shape of a horn with a narrow end and a wider end. Tape the papers in place so they don't unroll. Make one horn per kid and set them on a table.

Play: Invite kids to practice being messengers by shouting greetings through their horns.



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **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.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible story

The Big Picture Bible, page 112

God Called Isaiah

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who saw a vision of God? (*Isaiah*)
- What was God sitting on in Isaiah's vision? (*a throne*)
- What did God use to take away Isaiah's sin? (*a piece of coal carried with tongs*)
- Who said he would be God's messenger? (*Isaiah*)
- Whom can we share God's message with?
- Do you think everyone listens to God's message? Why or why not?
- How does it feel to know that you can share God's messages with people too?

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

God has said, “I will never leave you.”

— Hebrews 13:5b

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

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does it make you feel to know that God will never leave you?**
- **Can we share the message that God will never leave us? Who can we share it with?**



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LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Simon Says

God called Isaiah to be His messenger. Isaiah had a tough job because God's people didn't always want to listen to what God had to say. Let's play Simon Says so that we can practice listening and following what we're told to do!

Invite the kids to stand and play Simon Says. You can use the following prompts as you play:

- **Simon says ... tap your head!**
- **Simon says ... jump up and down!**
- **Turn in a circle!** Pause. **Uh oh! Simon didn't say!** Have the kids who did the action sit down.
- **Simon says ... sit down!**
- **Simon says ... stand up!**
- **Simon says ... high-five the person next to you!**
- **Simon says ... sing "Happy Birthday!"**
- **Sit down!** Pause. **Uh oh! Simon didn't say!** Have the kids who followed the command remain seated.
- **Simon says ... stand up!**
- **Simon says ... say "God calls people to be His messengers!"**
- **Simon says ... say the Word of Wonder!** ("God will never leave us." —from Hebrews

13:5b.) Play a few rounds, allowing kids to come back in and adding your own commands.