



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Isaiah 6:1-12

Revelation 4:2-8

Session Theme:

Calling

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: Called to Serve

When kids arrive, ask them to share what kind of work they might like to do when they grow up. Write each of their ideas on the board. Talk about the training or education that might be needed in order to follow each of these dreams. Next, explain how a “calling” is work that also serves God and other people. Look at the same list again and brainstorm ways that a person in each career can serve God through their work.

God gives all of us talents and gifts. Some people are good at fixing things, others at teaching, others at cooking, others at preaching, etc. No matter where your talents lie, you can always use them to serve God and your neighbor. Let's begin our lesson and learn about one man and his special calling to ministry!

c. Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we want to serve you. Help us find our callings in life so that we can make a positive impact on the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- “Here I Am, Lord” (hymn)
- “Send Me, Jesus” (hymn)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Prophets

Over the years, God sent many prophets to speak his Word and warn of coming dangers. But God also promised that he would never forsake his people, but would restore the nation in faith.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level.

Upper Elementary: Read the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read the Scripture text from the Bible

For Upper and Lower Elementary, use the Storyteller questions to help the students think about the events of the story.

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Upper Elementary: Worksheet and Drama

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, Questions)

Adult: Bible Study Sheet (Introduction and Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. If you have not already done so, introduce the Theme Word for the week, providing the definition, and asking how the lesson connects to that theme.

Youth/Adult: Discuss “Reflection for the Week Ahead”

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Upper Elementary: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Isaiah 6:1-12

1. The Lord gave the prophet Isaiah a vision of God's heavenly throne room. What kind of things did Isaiah see there? How is this similar to what is described in Revelation 4:2-8?

Isaiah saw Lord on his throne and his flowing robes filling the temple. He saw the smoke of the incense, representing the prayers of the people rising up to God. He saw angels and an altar of fire with burning coals, and the song of praise being sung to God's glory.

John's vision in Revelation is very similar, with God seated on the throne, and the glow of burning torches and flashes of light. The angelic "living beings" are present as well, singing praise to God in the same words Isaiah heard.

In Hebrew, the term for "palace" and "temple" is the same word. Both of these visions are heavenly versions of the earthly Temple in Jerusalem, pictured as the palace and dwelling place of God.

2. What were the words to the song the angels sang? Have you ever sung these same words in worship? What do these words mean?

They angels said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The word "holy" means "set apart" — referring to something special and distinct from all else. We often sing similar words in church, meaning "God is greater than anything else, and the whole world shows how great God is!"

For examples, you can look up the *Sanctus* on page 69 of the Lutheran Book of Worship or refer to the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" (LBW 165).

3. In verses 4-5, what did Isaiah say about himself? What do you think caused him to say this? In the same way, why do we confess our sins when we come to worship?

In the presence of God, Isaiah felt his sinfulness and felt that he was unworthy to be there. The disciple Peter had a similar reaction when confronted with the grace and power of Jesus (see Luke 5:8). We, too, know that we are not worthy of all the good God does for us. But we trust him enough to be honest about ourselves. In our confession of sin, God comes to us with his word of forgiveness to set us free.

4. In verse 7, what did the burning coal do for Isaiah? In our lives, when and where does God forgive our sins? Who does God send to let us know this?

The burning coal represents a purifying fire. (Compare what Scripture says in 1 Peter 1:3-7 regarding the image of purification by fire.) By means of the burning coal, brought by the angel, God forgave Isaiah's sin.

In our lives, God uses real people including pastors in church and fellow Christians to bring forgiveness to us and give our lips the power to declare his forgiveness to others.

5. What was the main task that God sent Isaiah to do? In what way does God use us to do the same thing, especially for those who do not believe?

God sent Isaiah to speak his Word. Prophets are those who receive a direct Word from God, meant to be spoken to God's people. God sends us to tell others about Jesus, so that by his Word, the Holy Spirit will create faith in others' lives. We become the living means by which God saves and redeems people of all nations.

6. From what you see in verses 9-10, do you think that Isaiah's ministry would be well received? Why would God send him to do something that might never appear to have any positive results?

Isaiah's ministry was not appreciated by the people to whom he was originally sent. It appears that this was part of God's intention. God was about to carry out his punishment on the people for their lack of faith, by allowing them to be conquered and sent into exile. But before all this happened, God wanted the people to know this was not because of God's lack of faithfulness, but because of the people's lack of faithfulness to God. Likewise, we are sent to do God's will whether we experience "success" or not.

7. When in your life have you said to God, "Here I am. Send me!"? Can you give an example? How did it turn out?

Answers will vary. Often the times we grow in faith are when we are challenged to do something we have never done before. God often leads us to a place where we need to take a "leap of faith" to move forward.

8. What most inspires you to serve God? What new thing do you hear God calling you to do in your life of faith? What help or resources might you need to do it?

Everyone is different. Some are inspired by blessing and others by trial. The important part is to remember that God is the one who gives us the strength to carry out his purpose in us.

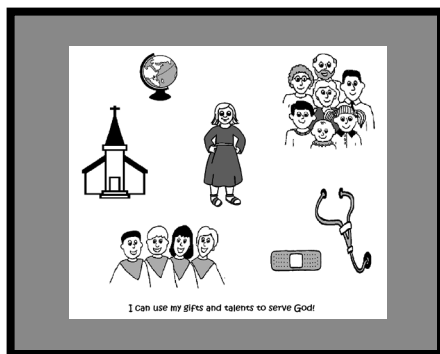
Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Different Callings Collage

Materials Needed:

- Markers
- White paper
- Magazines
- Glue
- Scissors
- Colored construction paper
- Stapler



Instructions:

Continuing the lesson theme of “Calling,” invite kids to draw a picture or make a collage around the life work they would like to do someday.

Remind students that a calling does not only include paid work — it is much bigger than that. A calling encompasses the many ways we use our talents to serve God and our neighbors in the world. Isaiah’s calling was unique to him, and theirs will be unique to them. God can use all of us in different ways for his good purposes!

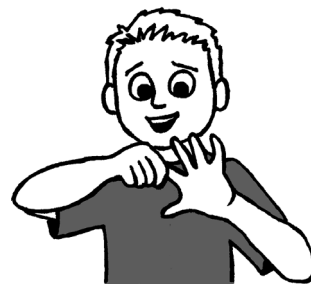
To make the collages:

- Give each student a piece of white paper and some markers. Invite kids to draw a small self-portrait in the center of the paper.
- Next, give kids magazines and stickers if you have them.
- Invite kids to cut out pictures of things that represent what they picture being part of their life’s work. *(If you don’t have magazines and stickers available, kids can draw what they imagine on other areas of the paper, instead.)*
- Glue *(or draw)* the pictures around the self portrait.
- Let kids choose a color of construction paper, and center the white collage paper on top of the construction paper so it looks like a frame.
- Staple the white paper to the construction paper at each of the four corners.
- Write, “God calls me to use all my talents for good!” or something similar at the bottom of the page.

Activity 2: Calling Cards Game

Materials Needed:

- Note cards
- Pen or marker
- Space to play a game
- Timer



Instructions:

Before class begins, think of a variety of callings and write each one down on separate note cards.

These could come from the ideas kids generated during the icebreaker, or could include things like:

Mail carrier, pastor, janitor, doctor, writer, parent, artist, chef, teacher, cashier, farmer, garbage collector, waiter/waitress, coach, fire fighter, bus driver, police officer, hair dresser/barber, etc.

Explain that a calling is like a job, but one that may or may not be paid. The work can be easy or difficult, but what makes it special is that the person doing it finds it meaningful and sees it as serving both God and other people.

Play a game of Charades to reinforce this theme.

- Divide the class into two teams. *(If your class is small, play as individuals instead.)*
- Invite a volunteer to come forward and pick a card out of a paper bag. Set a timer for 3 minutes.
- The volunteer will act out the job without giving any verbal clues as to what it is. *(If your class has pre-readers in it, you can whisper the job from the index card into the volunteer’s ear so he/she will know what to act out.)*
- Kids will try to guess what calling is being acted out. Whichever team *(or individual)* guesses the correct answer before the timer sounds will get a point. If no one guesses correctly, no one gets a point.
- Play the game until everyone has had a chance to act out a role. At the end, tally up the points from both teams *(or all individuals)* to name the winner.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Glowing Embers:

God's Question:

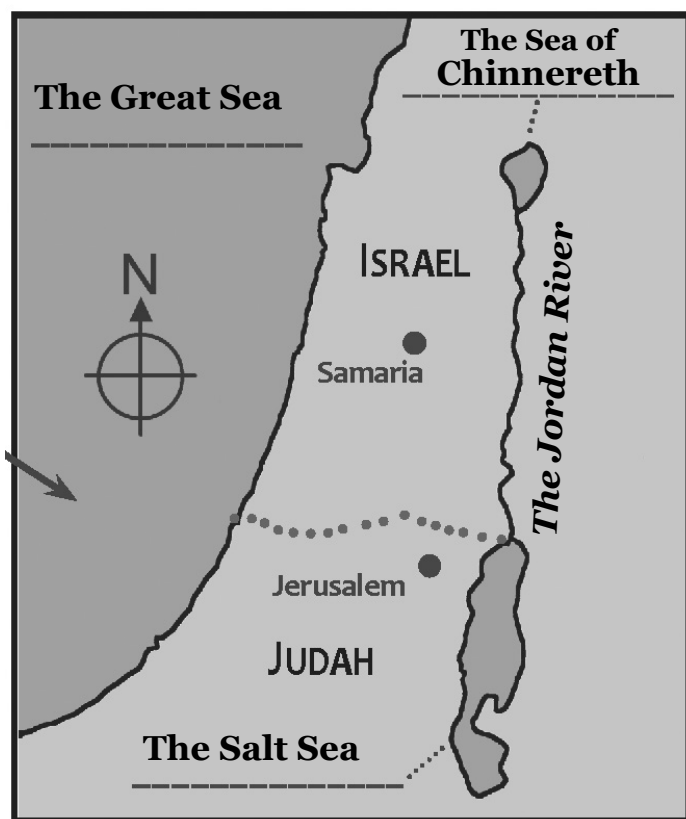
"Whom shall I send. Who will go for us?"

Isaiah's Answer:

"Here am I, send me!" (from Isaiah 6:8)

Map Answer Key

On the map from the Youth Page, here are the names of the bodies of water:



Bonus Question:

In which region did Isaiah live and work?

Isaiah was one of the southern prophets. He served his ministry in the Kingdom of Judah. (Refer to the worksheet for Lesson 2:3)

Vocabulary Word for the Week:

Teachers may want to introduce the theme word for the week to help expand students' biblical vocabulary:

Calling

a "calling" is a job that God gives us to do, when he send us out with a mission

When God asks us to do something for him, he "calls" us to be his messenger. We are all called to serve God in our lives.

Reflection for the Week Ahead

The Israelites had an understanding that the Temple in Jerusalem was the earthly dwelling of God. But even King Solomon, who built the temple, acknowledged:

"Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27)

The vision Isaiah received was of the heavenly Temple. It was an amazing and unusual vision. Can you imagine receiving such a vision God's own "headquarters" in heaven? That's exactly what the prophet Isaiah saw — a vision of the throne room of God; God's command center!

Do an Internet search on "thrones" and see what comes up.

- Did you see any interesting looking chairs? Any that you might want to put in your house?
- What do you imagine God's throne looks like? Take some time to sketch out what you think it might look like, then chat together about your drawing.
- Talk together about what you imagine heaven is like. Can you picture standing before the throne of God some day? How would you feel?

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, write a prayer that expresses praise for God's holiness. Thank God for showing his prophets the vision of God's headquarters in heaven so that we can get a glimpse of his greatness and power.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.