

BIBLE SMASH!

Before you begin to read the verses for this lesson take at least 5 minutes and pray to God that he will give you an opportunity to be used to by Him.

WARNING: God answers prayer. Do not pray to God asking to be used by Him if you do not intend to be obedient and let our Lord work through you.

Study: Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 9:35-37

Memorize: Isaiah 6:8

Notes:

Analyze: The background information...

Topic: Will you go?

Isaiah 6:1-8

So, what is it that Isaiah was looking at in his vision? He was in a palace, presumably in the throne room. He saw the Lord sitting on a throne - a throne that was elevated up high, probably on top of a high set of steps. God's train filled the palace. (The train is the trailing part of a robe that drags along the ground as you walk - it's the long part in the back of a traditional brides gown that is sometimes carried by the bride's maid.)

...and a Seraphs... No one knows exactly what they are but the closest definition of these particular seraphs, based on several resources, would be a flaming snake-like creature with six wings. They are using two of their wings to cover their faces (no one can look upon the face of the Lord and live). They are using two of their wings to cover up their "nakedness" (no one can appear naked before the Lord). And they are using the last two wings to fly, to stay close to the Lord. Each seraph was crying out to the Lord "Holy, Holy, Holy is God of us all - The earth is full of His glory." As they praised the Lord the room shook like an earthquake and the room filled with smoke.

Isaiah's immediate response is that he is not worthy to be in the presence of

the Lord. We don't know exactly what Isaiah means when he says he unclean but we do know that he does not feel like he deserves to be in the presence of God.

In response to Isaiah's confession of guilt (unclean lips - the spoken word) one of the Seraphs uses fire (a common method of cleansing at the time) to purify Isaiah's lips. The Seraph also clears Isaiah of his sin and guilt. The Seraph does not address the fact the Isaiah still lives among a sinful people. Isaiah has now been set apart from the people.

God speaks, but not directly to Isaiah. It is as if Isaiah is overhearing God talk to those in his heavenly palace. "Who should I send? And who will go?"

Isaiah, without hesitation, responds to God's calling with "Hear I am, send me!"

This is very much unlike when Moses is called and Moses tries to complain his way out of it (Exodus 3:11-4:17). And then there was Jeremiah who didn't think he know anything because he was young (Jeremiah 1:6)

One thing to note was that being a prophet, at the time, was not considered to be a career (such as a tent maker or a priest). Prophets were often met with skepticism. Many people doubted the words of prophets and could not understand why God didn't just speak through his priests. (It is because the priests themselves were corrupt). Prophets were often times ignored, made

fun of, and not very popular with the people.

Matthew 9:35-37

Jesus spoke these words right before he called his 12 disciples, gave them authority, and sent them out.

Jesus looks at all the people and sees a crowd of uncommitted people that are potential disciples but are in danger of being misled by their leaders.

When Jesus is referring to the harvest he is referring to the day of judgement. In doing missional work God chooses to involve humans rather than sending angels. We are to help lead others into a loving relationship with God so that they will be prepared for the day of judgment.

“Missionary” work is not something we do just because we feel like it (whether it is across the ocean or in our own schools and work places). It is something we do because we are called to do it. (Matthew 28:18-20) We are the tools God uses to grow His kingdom.

Share: Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

Honor: A Definition

obedience

The act of obeying, or the state of being obedient; compliance with that which is required by authority; subjection to rightful restraint or control.

**From Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998
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Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

Isaiah 6:1-8

- 1) If you saw God what do you think he would look like? What do you think his house or palace would look like? Who do you think would be hanging around God and what do you think they would be doing? (Allow the students to share their ideas - this could be very interesting and fun)
- 2) Are there qualities about you or your life style that you think would keep you from being near to God? If yes, what are they? (do not force anyone to share their answers on this question - you may even just ask them to think of stuff in their heads and not let anyone share.)
- 3) What changes could you make in your life so that God could be nearer to you?
- 4) [Describe to your students what Isaiah saw] What would you think if you saw God in a vision? (excited, freaked out, not sure...)
- 5) If God asked for someone to be his messenger would you be like Isaiah and step up to the challenge - even though it may make you unpopular, or would you be like Moses and complain a lot and give reasons why God should pick someone else, or would you be like the rich young ruler that chose not to follow Jesus at all? (Luke 18:18-23)

Matthew 9:35-37

- 1) Name some times when you have seen someone less fortunate than your self and felt sorry for them. (a new kid in school, a starving child on TV, a homeless person near a subway entrance or bus stop...)
- 2) What actions did you take to help those people? (none, gave some change, sponsored a child...)
- 3) Are there people in your community that do not have a personal relationship with God? Name some of them in general (my neighbor, some kids in school, people I see at the mall...) Name some of them specifically. (John in math class, my parents friend Jane, my Uncle Eric...)

- 4) What actions did you take to help them out?
- 5) Is it easier to help someone with a physical or financial need or easier to help someone with a spiritual need? Explain your answer.
- 6) Whose responsibility is it to take care of those in need? (physically or financially) Whose responsibility is it to take care of those that do not know God? Explain why you picked who you did for these instances.
- 7) What can it mean to be sent by God? (some examples are a missionary to another country, to talk to your friend at school, to tell a family member about God...) Help your students understand that it can mean more than what we stereotypically think of as a missionary.

General Question / Statement

We are all called by God to speak to those that do not know God.

Will you respond?

Pray that God will guide you in your life and show you where He is so that you can join Him in His work. (Take a moment and pray with your students. Take a moment of silence to allow your students hear God talk to them.)

Remind your students that God talks to each of us at different times and in different ways. If any of your students has felt like God was talking to them tonight ask them to share that with you some time soon (if not right after the Bible study)

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