

# God Discoveries

Break the Bible verse codes and then fill in the blanks to discover things that Isaiah learned about God. **GOD IS:**

1. — — L —: perfect, pure, without sin. (Revelation D:H)
2. — — S —: fair, giving reward or punishment as deserved. (Revelation O:C)
3. — O — — N —: concerned for and devoted to people. (Psalm Y:f)

## ISAIAH'S DISCOVERIES

Use three characteristics of God to finish statements about Isaiah's call.

- a. Isaiah felt unworthy and unclean when he saw God, because God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. God promised to punish His people for their sins because God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Because God is \_\_\_\_\_, He cared about His people and wanted to help them.

## MY DISCOVERIES

Use two characteristics of God in these statements about your own life.

- d. When I think about how \_\_\_\_\_ God is, I realize how sinful I am.
- e. Because God is \_\_\_\_\_, it would be right for Him to punish me for my sins.

► Arrange the bold letters in the Key Verse to fill in the blank below.

Because God is loving and merciful, He promises to give me \_\_\_\_\_ when I repent.

## KEY VERSE

**For** all have **sinned** and fall **short of the** glory of God.  
Romans 3:23

A

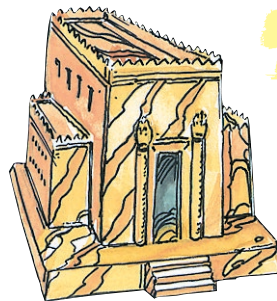
B



# HOLY ENCOUNTER

<sup>1</sup>Isaiah (eye-SAY-uh). It means “God is salvation.” Isaiah lived near Jerusalem over 3,000 years ago.

**W**hen Isaiah<sup>1</sup> was a young man, there were lots of problems in his country. Many people had turned away from God and were living lives of sin. They were also in danger from powerful enemies.



<sup>2</sup>This is the great temple that Solomon built. It was later destroyed by invading armies.

*Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

We often hear about God as our Lord or even as our friend. It’s important to remember, too, how holy and awesome God really is. Here’s what happened to Isaiah one day as he went to the temple<sup>2</sup> to pray.

Take a minute to try to picture this scene

in your mind. Getting a glimpse of God’s perfect holiness and awesome glory can change how you think about God.



## Isaiah 6:1-7

*I [Isaiah] saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a*

*throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim,<sup>3</sup> each with six wings. . . . And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD*

*“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.”<sup>4</sup>*

*Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and*

<sup>3</sup>Pronounced SAIR-uh-fim. This was the highest rank of angels, who served in God’s presence. A seraph had three pairs of wings.



<sup>4</sup>When people realize how holy and sinless God is, they are frightened by their own sinfulness.

said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

**How did Isaiah respond to what he saw? Why was Isaiah so frightened? How did God help Isaiah? Read Isaiah 6:8. What did God ask and how did Isaiah answer? How do you think you would have answered?**

God had called Isaiah to be a prophet—to give God's message to His people. Isaiah warned them that God would punish them if they didn't change. But Isaiah also spoke words of mercy and hope. God promised to forgive them and save them from their enemies if they repented of their evil ways. God's message was not an easy one to deliver. But Isaiah found courage and strength when he remembered what he had learned about God.

**Check out Isaiah 9:6-7. Have you heard these words before? When? Who is the child Isaiah is talking about?**

Isaiah's encounter with God was awe-inspiring. He got

to see God in His incredible glory.

**When have you been totally awed by God's power or glory?**



# Digging Up Trouble

**H**ow well I remember one summer day when my mother called Hilde, Bud, Bev, and me together to ask us if we knew anything about a missing sum of silver coins. Mom had been collecting the Kennedy half-dollars in an old china teapot tucked away inside her bedroom closet. Mom was sure that one of us kids must be responsible.

Investigation proved her right. I had been using the silver half-dollars to purchase ice cream, soda pop, and other sweets at Parenti's neighborhood store. Waiting for the right moment—like when mom was busy downstairs baking biscuits—I'd slip into the privacy of her bedroom and sneakily slide open her closet doors. Rummaging through coat pockets and purses, and groveling on the floor, I would sometimes "find" a penny, nickel, or dime to add to my allowance.

One day I discovered a cubbyhole in the closet and my hand felt a hidden object. As I drew it out I saw a china teapot, and inside I discovered a silver mine—a treasure of silver half-dollars, buffalo nickels, and old dimes. Despite my excitement I knew that I was doing wrong. But with each trip to the candy store and return trip to the teapot, I began to talk myself into believing I was "borrowing" the money and would eventually replace it.

Now I was caught, and I realized the wrong thing I had done. I admitted to the thievery; I knew that I was in deep trouble.

"You know better! I've been saving those silver pieces for a long time. What made you think you had a right to steal them?"

In tears, ashamed, I feebly tried to explain away the wrong: "I intended to put them back . . . to pay them back later out of my allowance. Honest!"

My mother looked at me, the grief showing in her face. "I'm very disappointed in you. You know better. If you can't be honest within your own household, what makes you think that you can be honest outside this home? Do you realize that your dishonesty will cost you something more valuable than money? You must respect the property of others or you will wind up in even deeper trouble than you are now!"

I was punished; but I was also forgiven. Mom patiently helped me pay her money back from my allowance and odd jobs. Each time I returned a coin, mom made me feel good about telling the truth. I was given a way to redeem myself.

My mom's love still instructs me, giving me a glimpse of the everlasting forgiveness and love that is found ultimately with God.