

God's Holiness

STEP 1 Life Need (5-10 minutes)



 Students discuss what they believe about God. ☐ Whiteboard and marker

STEP 2 \bigcirc Bible Learning (15-20 minutes)

- Bible Study: Learn what it is like to stand before a holy God.
 - ☐ Bible Adventures pp. 2–3, Bibles
- Bible Review: Break Bible verse codes to discover characteristics of God.
 - ☐ Bible Adventures p. 1, pencils

STEP 3 Dible Application (5-10 minutes)

· Read a story about a girl who needed forgiveness.

☐ Bible Adventures p. 4

STEP 4 Life Response (about 5 minutes)

- Memory Work: Use two characteristics of God to finish statements about your life.
 - ☐ Bible Adventures p. 1, pencils
- Optional Activity: Discuss the prayer journal assignment.

Memory Verse

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

-Romans 3:23

indicates items you will need to prepare before class

Bible Basis:

Isaiah sees the holy God and tells of His judgment and mercy (Isa. 6:1-9; 30:8-21).

Although God judges sin, He mercifully provides redemption.

.esson Aim

That your students will recognize their need for mercy and forgiveness from God.

UnderStanding

We're beginning a new unit about God's gift of redemption. The first lesson about Isaiah emphasizes God's holiness and

Both passages in this week's lesson speak of sin and God's provision for forgiveness. In Isaiah 6:1-9, Isaiah sees his own sinfulness as he comes into God's presence. In Isaiah 30:8-21, Judah was warned against allying itself with Egypt, a sin that God was willing to forgive if Judah would repent.

Isaiah lived during the reigns of five different kings of Judah, and he was respected by them. Sometimes Isaiah was court historian, and sometimes counselor to the king. But his main office was that of spiritual prophet, or preacher. When Isaiah was confronted with the mighty holiness of God, he was overwhelmed with his own sinfulness. Isaiah's sense of sin focused on his lips—his speech. He realized he had said wrong things because his attitudes and thoughts had been wrong (Jas. 3:2). Immediately God showed His love by providing forgiveness for Isaiah's sin.

At the time of Isaiah's vision, he was troubled over conditions at the end of King Uzziah's reign (Isa. 6:1). The prosperity that resulted from this king's wise leadership had

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Understanding the Bible —cont'd

become a stumbling block in Judah. The people became proud and spiritually indifferent. During Isaiah's lifetime they engaged in every sort of social vice. A prophet was needed to call them back to God. When God asked, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah responded, "Here am I. Send me!" (vs. 8).

God's love is shown clearly in the portions of the Book of Isaiah that tell of Christ's coming. Isaiah 7:14 refers to His birth; Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of Him as the Mighty Ruler; and chapter 53 shows Him as the Suffering Servant sent by God.

Many years later these prophecies were carried out when Jesus, God's Son, came to earth to live among humanity, to die for our sins, and to rise again.

TiPS

Classroom

Here are ways that you can help your students focus on the study of God's Word.

- Make Bible reading a part of each Sunday school class. This could be done in a short devotional time or during the Bible study.
- Choose an easy-to-read version of the Bible to use in class. Preteens should be able to handle the language of the NIV. Picture Bibles are okay for recreational reading, but not for study.
- Bible readings may be more exciting if varied techniques are used.
 Some of these could be as follows: let one person be the narrator, while others read the parts of the characters; alternate every other sentence or paragraph; or find how many times an important word is used in the reading.
- Give all students a chance to do the Bible reading, but allow them to pass if they seem uncomfortable reading aloud. Explain anything that is not easily understood.

Choose from these activities to do as students arrive.

- Help gauge your students' concept of God in preparation for the Bible study. Write the title "What Is God Like?" on the board or a piece of poster board. Let students respond with one or two words that they would use to describe God.
- poster board or whiteboard, markers
- Provide paper and markers. Ask your students to illustrate a time when they disobeyed or did something foolish. They don't have to show these to the other students.
- paper, markers

PRESESSION ACTIVI

- For Worship Time, use the songs for this quarter on the DisKit CD from the Creative Teaching Aids packet.
- ☐ DisKit CD, CD player



Understanding Your Students

Preteens can be distracted by many external things—hot July weather, friends, activities, or music. The sight of a game, TV, or an unfinished activity—even hunger, allergies, or the smell of food—can be distractions. And your students can be distracted by internal struggles, perhaps caused by an

argument or problems with family or friends.

In the midst of all these distractions, preteens often find it difficult to concentrate on reading and studying the Bible.



STEP 1 ()

Life Need (5–10 minutes)

Lesson Aim:

That your students will recognize their need for mercy and forgiveness from God. Objective: That your students will talk about how others answered the question "Who is God?" and will talk about their own answer.

Materials:

☐ Whiteboard and marker

To prepare students for the lesson from Isaiah 6:1-9 and 30:8-21 in which Isaiah has a vision of God's glory, students will discuss views about God.

A "Person on the Street" interview is when an interviewer takes an unscientific poll of peoples' responses to a question. Basically, a person stands on a street asking a question of the people who walk by. Let's pretend that we've heard an interview with people answering the question: Who is God? Some answers are biblically correct and some are way out there. Here are some of the responses to one such video.

- "I have no concept of that."
- "What you make it inside you."
- "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."
- "I am confused because I am a scientific person. I don't believe it unless I see it."
- "I believe in me. My higher power is myself."
- "Creator of the universe."
- "I define God as a creative process."
- "Fantasy concept."
- "As long as you do good in life, you are good to go."
- "I believe in evolution completely. I think it's quite exciting that we came from nothing."
- "God is very personal."

It appears from the answers that there are many people who don't know the Lord. Many choose to reject God even though they may have heard the Gospel. But some may have never heard the truth.

- What surprises you about the responses people gave? Why?
- If you asked, "Who is God?" in a survey at your school, what answers do you think you would get?
- **◆ How would you answer the question?** (You could write responses on the board. No answers are wrong at this point.)
- O Do you think how we respond to God depends on what we know about God? Why or why not?

God selected Isaiah to tell the Israelites about God. Let's find out how Isaiah responded to God.

STEP 2 0

Bible Learning (15–20 minutes)

Bible Truth:

Isaiah sees the holy God and tells of His judgment and mercy (Isa. 6:1-9; 30:8-21).

Objective: That your students will understand what Isaiah learned about God's holiness and mercy.

Materials:

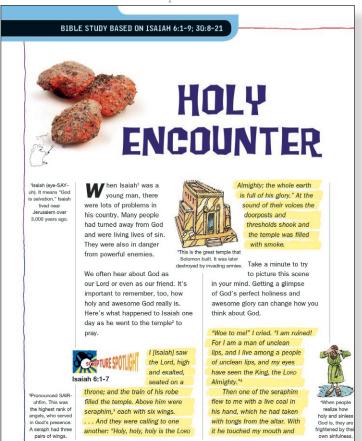
- ☐ Bible Adventures pp. 2–3, Bibles
- ☐ Bible Adventures p. 1, pencils

Bible Study

Distribute *Bible Adventures* and have students turn to pages 2 and 3. Have them read the introduction silently. When they have finished, point out the footnotes, 1 and 2, about Isaiah and the temple.

Have a volunteer read the first section of Scripture Spotlight, Isaiah 6:1-4. Then read aloud these words from *Bible Adventures*, reprinted here: **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.** You could have them close their eyes for a moment to block out other distractions. After a short time, move on to the reading of the next Scripture Spotlight section, Isaiah 6:5-7. After the reading, point out that the live coal was a symbol of God's forgiveness. Isaiah's guilt was taken away. Then discuss the following questions.

- **1** How did Isaiah respond to what he saw? (He was in awe—overwhelmed by his vision of God.)
- **Why was Isaiah so frightened?** (Isaiah probably expected that he would die because he had seen God. Have a student look up Exodus 33:20, where Moses was told he could not see God's face and live.)



D How did God help Isaiah? (He sent a seraph to Isaiah with a live coal. The seraph touched the coal to Isaiah's mouth and told him that his sin was atoned for.)

Have students look up Isaiah 6:8 in their Bibles. Then ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

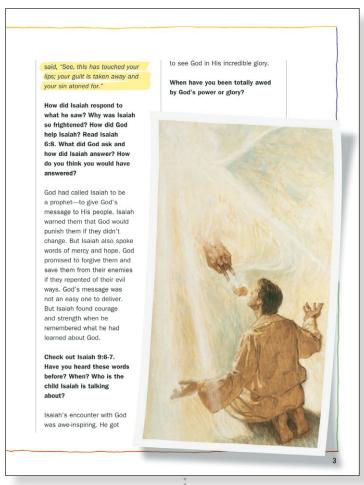
What did God ask and how did Isaiah answer? (God was asking, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah answered that he would go.)

Have a volunteer read the next paragraph, which sheds a little more light on what God had in mind for Isaiah. (See Isaiah 30:8-21 for the scriptural basis of this paragraph.)

How do you think you would have answered? (Depending on your students' characteristics, you could have them consider the question silently or you could encourage discussion. Isaiah had just seen the incredible glory of God. Ask students how they think seeing God's glory and power might have affected their answer and their willingness to do what God said. At the same time, they need to acknowledge that it still probably would have been difficult to go before the people and tell them about their sins.)

Then have the whole class look up and read Isaiah 9:6-7 from the Bible.

Lesson 6 47



Have you heard these words before? When? (Your students have probably heard these words at Christmastime when the prophecy is read. They may also

Christmastime when the prophecy is read. They may also mention hearing it from Handel's Messiah, if they have been exposed to it at Christmastime.)

Who is the child Isaiah is talking about? (The child is Jesus.)

Read the last connecting paragraph aloud together.

- When have you been totally awed by God's power or glory? (Allow students to share any experiences. Share some personal experience you had that demonstrated God's power or glory in your life. Students may share aspects of Creation that remind them of God's power, or miraculous protection and answers to prayer.)
- What do you think your reaction would be if you were in Isaiah's place? (Answers will vary, but all responses should acknowledge the awe and holiness of God that would make any of us, like Isaiah, awestruck. Some will say that they would be on their faces before God; some might say they would be curious to see what was happening. Remind students that our reactions would probably be very similar to that of Isaiah: We would be on our knees before the incredible power and holiness of God.)

Bible Review

You will use only the first part of *Bible Adventures* page 1.

Students will complete "My Discoveries" at the end of the lesson during Life Response. Have your class turn to page 1, and explain that this page is designed as a simple fold-over page. First fold backward on line B and then bring that fold over to line A. The page will now show a hidden picture of Isaiah kneeling in the presence of God.

Open the page and read the directions. The chapter and verse numbers of the Bible references can be decoded by finding the numerical place of the letter in the alphabet. For example, A=1. References are Revelation 4:8; Revelation 15:3; and Psalm 25:10. Read Revelation 4:8.

What word in this verse describes God? (Holy. This means that God is perfect, pure, and without sin.) Let students write "holy" in the blanks by number 1.

Ask your students to find and read Revelation 15:3.

Which word in this verse means the same as "fair," giving reward or punishment as deserved? (*Just.*) The word "just" goes in the blanks on the second line.

Have students look up Psalm 25:10 and read that verse. God loves us continuously, even when we don't deserve it. Have your students put "loving" in the blanks by number 3. Read the directions for completing "Isaiah's Discoveries." Allow time for your students to finish this exercise. The answers are: a. holy; b. just; c. loving. These three characteristics of God give us an idea of who He is. God is holy. Our sin separates us from Him. God is just. Sin must be punished. God is loving. God offers forgiveness of sins to all who ask Him.







Objective: That your students will read a story that tells about a mother's forgiving love.

Materials:

☐ Bible Adventures p. 4

Think of the last time you were punished for disobeying. Did you feel like a minus 10 on the rating scale of self-worth? Perhaps you thought you were doing something good and it turned out all wrong, or you didn't really think a lot about what you were doing. Maybe you said to yourself, "I did it again—goofed up!" Whatever the reason for the punishment, it didn't give you a good feeling.

Have your students find the story on page 4 in *Bible Adventures*. This is a story about a girl who gave in to temptation. You can have a good reader read the whole story or have your students take turns reading.

- How do we know this mother was just and loving? (She punished her daughter, but she forgave her and made a way for her to pay back the money.)
- What did the mother teach her daughter about God's love? (That even when she did wrong, she was still loved and given mercy and forgiveness.)

It's comforting to remember that our heavenly Father knows we are likely to "goof up." But He still loves us—unconditionally. That does not mean we will not have to suffer any consequences of our sins. Although God judges sin, He provides mercy and forgiveness when we confess our sin.

Lesson 6 49



Bible Truth:

Although God judges sin, He mercifully provides redemption.

Objective: That students realize that they need God's mercy and forgiveness.

Materials:

☐ Bible Adventures p. 1, pencils

Turn back to page 1 in *Bible Adventures* to complete the activity. Earlier we learned about three characteristics of God. Isaiah discovered that God is holy, just, and loving. God has the attributes of a good father. He is disappointed when we do foolish things. He loves us even when we fall short of His expectations, and is always ready to forgive when we repent. God wants only the best for us, and He wants us to try to do our best for Him.

Have students find "My Discoveries" on the page and read the directions. Give the class a few minutes to finish this part of the page. The answers: d. holy; e. just. The unscrambled word from the Key Verse is "forgiveness."



Earlier in our lesson we talked about three of God's characteristics. On this part of the page we are using two of God's characteristics to think about our own lives.

- **What does God's holiness tell you about yourself?** (We are sinful, none of us are perfect; we cannot be as holy as God.)
- What should happen to us because God is just? (We should be punished for our sins—this would mean not having eternal life in addition to other punishment. But because God is also loving and merciful, He offers us forgiveness when we ask Him.)

Memory Work

Read the Key Verse, Romans 3:23, together a few times.

- What are some ways we fall short of the glory of God? (Allow your students to briefly tell of ways that they sometimes "fall short." Don't press them to respond if they don't want to.)
- How do people sometimes try to cover up wrongdoing? (They may make excuses or point out faults of others. They laugh about what they have done wrong. And some people blame others or try to lie their way out of the situation.)

Closing Activity

Lead students in a prayer of thanksgiving. Lord, we thank You for Your mercy and loving forgiveness. We know that even when we fall short of Your expectations, You still love us and are willing to forgive us and help us to do better. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Optional Activity

In your prayer journal, write about any situations you encounter this week where you need God's mercy and forgiveness. Tell God about the situation, confessing your sin, and write your prayer for mercy. Praise God for His mercy and forgiveness.