



The Word Is the Promise

LEADER'S Review

SUPPLIES

Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- Letter to Parents (1 copy/family)

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (Optional: guitar or music to sing along with)
- Basket for offering*
- Pastor's testimony (for Hearing the Word Activity #1)
- Blank paper and crayons or colored pencils (for Hearing the Word Activity #2)

OPTIONAL:

- Elements of Worship Icons* (Found in the introduction section.)

*These items will be needed every week.

“Here I am! Send me!” the prophet Isaiah declared as he heard the voice of the Lord (Isa. 6:8b).

You have listened to the Lord as He has called you to teach the next generation. You are teaching His children that the greatest joy we have is to worship the living God who sent His only Son for us. As you teach them “Holy, Holy, Holy” and other hymns and songs of praise, you are preparing them for something they will be doing for eternity: worshipping the God who saves.

Nevertheless, as we've been learning this year, worship is more than singing and shouting praise. Worship includes praying and giving and reading and, as we will discuss this month, *hearing* the Word. Long before the printing press or increased literacy rates, believers relied upon hearing the Word of God from men of God: the prophets in the Old Testament, Jesus Himself and the apostles in the New Testament, and pastors and teachers since. You, in your role as a children's teacher, are following in their footsteps as you speak the words of God and your students hear them.

That can seem a daunting task, and it is. Children often remember more of what they hear than we think they do, so we do need to be careful with the words we use. However, when we speak the words of God written in the Bible, it's exciting to know that they may remember these words for the rest of their lives, in times of joy and sorrow, and as they pray and worship! Adults too readily just try to keep children busy and quiet during the time the Word is preached. Make certain your students know the value of hearing the Word during worship, of remembering the Word, and being able to apply the Word in their lives every day.



THE Lesson

Call to Worship – Psalm 100:1–2

(1 minute)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD he is God! It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Praise

Sing worship songs with the children. (10 minutes)

- “Wonderful Words of Life”
- “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Tithes and Offerings

Recite the following verse before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

Confession of Faith

Lead the children in confessing their faith by teaching the following catechism questions. (5 minutes)

My First Catechism Questions 14-15

14. **Q. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?**
A. In the Bible alone
15. **Q. Who wrote the Bible?**
A. Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit



Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (2-3 minutes)

Isaiah 6 (Isaiah's Vision of the Lord)

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” ⁹And he said, “Go ...”



Prayer

Pray a prayer of praise to God who is “holy, holy, holy ... the LORD of hosts.” (1-2 minutes)

Almighty God, You are holy! You are mighty! You alone are worthy of praise and adoration. What a privilege it is to come before You and worship. Give us ears to hear Your Word and hearts to keep it as we now bow humbly before Your throne. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-10 minutes for lesson; 10-15 minutes for the activities)

How many of you have sat through a sermon during church? Did you enjoy it, or did you get bored and want to go home? Did you understand all that was being said?

This month we are going to study why God has commanded that His Word be preached. We are also going to study why God commands His people to listen to the Word when it is preached. We are going to find out why we often do not listen and why God's people have always had trouble hearing the Word. He has always called men to preach and teach the Word to His people, because through the hearing of and the reading of God's Word is how

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

God always communicates with His people here on earth. We, as God’s children, need to train our ears to hear Him when His Word is preached or taught.

Today, our scripture reading is about how God called one man to preach the Word to a people who were not going to listen. God told him to keep on preaching anyway. Isaiah is an important book in the Bible because, even though the people in that day did not hear the Word, Isaiah wrote it all down so God’s people might hear it for hundreds of years to come. One very important part of Isaiah’s story is how God called him to preach. Even today, pastors must receive a call from God and from His church to preach.

OPTION: *Have the pastor or a teaching elder tell the children their story of “calling.” If no teaching elder is available, have the elder record it or write it in a letter to be read in class.*

Isaiah had a very unusual call, and he could not say “no.” In the Old Testament, before Jesus came to earth, preachers were called prophets. Isaiah was a prophet. His job, like our pastor’s job (*You may want to insert your pastor’s name*), was to tell people what God said. It was a bit different then because people did not have a Bible to read like we do today, so the preaching of the prophets was the only way most people heard from God.

People then, just like now, didn’t always want to hear God’s Word, but Isaiah never stopped doing what God called him to do. He preached during the reigns of four different kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Although many people around him didn’t think much about God, Isaiah thought about Him all the time. One day, he had a vision, which is like having a dream when you are not asleep. In the vision, Isaiah saw how glorious and holy the Lord is. Let’s review what the Bible says happened.

First, Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne, and God’s robe was so grand and huge, it filled the temple.

Next, Isaiah saw heavenly creatures called seraphim who were praising and serving God. Then, because he saw God Himself, Isaiah felt very sinful and cried out, “Woe is me!” So, one of the seraphim touched Isaiah’s mouth with a burning coal and said that his sin had been paid for.

Who paid for Isaiah’s sin? The cost of sin is death. Who paid that price? Who paid for your sin? Yes. The very Lord who was sitting on the throne in Isaiah’s vision—Jesus!

Finally, the Lord asked Isaiah a question, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah was being called to go and speak to everyone the very Word of God. What was his answer? “Here I am! Send me.”

God called Isaiah to speak to His people Israel. He had to tell them God was angry at their sin. There were other things Isaiah had to tell them too—wonderful things about Someone who would be a strong deliverer and come to save them from sin and all their enemies. The Jewish people call this person the “Messiah.” Even though they expected God to send the Messiah, the people continued to live as if He would never come.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

We know all the things Isaiah spoke and wrote about the Messiah happened more than 700 years later when Jesus was born and lived, died for our sins, and rose again from the grave. The Messiah came as Isaiah prophesied and not just to the Jewish people. Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be “a light to the Gentiles,” bringing salvation to all the ends of the earth. The same Jesus Isaiah preached about hundreds of years ago is the Jesus our pastor preaches about today. Unlike the people of Isaiah’s day who didn’t listen, we must have ears to hear the Word. We must learn to love hearing the Word preached and taught to us. It’s the story of Jesus our Savior who loves us. It is powerful and will turn our hearts to God. Let’s pray we will hear the Word preached and we will believe in Jesus, the Messiah, and like Isaiah, we will be ready to share with others what God has said.

(Pray a prayer that asks for open ears and open hearts.) Heavenly Father, hear our prayer. Help us to love to hear Your Word preached and taught. Give us ears to hear You and hearts and minds to believe in You and share the good news about Jesus with the people around us. In Jesus’s name, amen.

ACTIVITY #1: Roll out a 4’-6’ long sheet of white butcher paper. Let the children gather around it. Explain that we do not know what God looks like. Isaiah did not give a description of Him, but we do know that the train of God’s robe filled the temple because it was so grand. Have them work together to draw and color God’s robe and the seraphim. Remind them that Isaiah said they were six-winged creatures. Two wings covered the face of each, two wings covered his feet, and with the other two wings they flew. When the mural is completed, display it on a classroom wall as a reminder of God’s glory.

ACTIVITY #2: Give each student a sheet of paper to draw pictures of those with whom they want to share God’s Word.



Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!
(Ps. 29:1)

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