

Forgiveness Fire

Isaiah 6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 303-310

Have you ever had to tell someone something that you didn't want to tell them? Isaiah didn't think he was good enough to be God's messenger. God used an unusual way to encourage him.

One day Isaiah was visiting the temple. Suddenly he seemed to be standing in heaven in a dazzling room, looking toward God on His throne! Glittering rainbows, as though thrown from a gigantic diamond, danced across the space. God's royal robe was so long, it draped down the platform of His throne and seemed to fill the room. A sacred altar to one side had bright-orange, burning coals with a drift of smoke rising from it. And what were those bright and shining creatures flying above God's head?

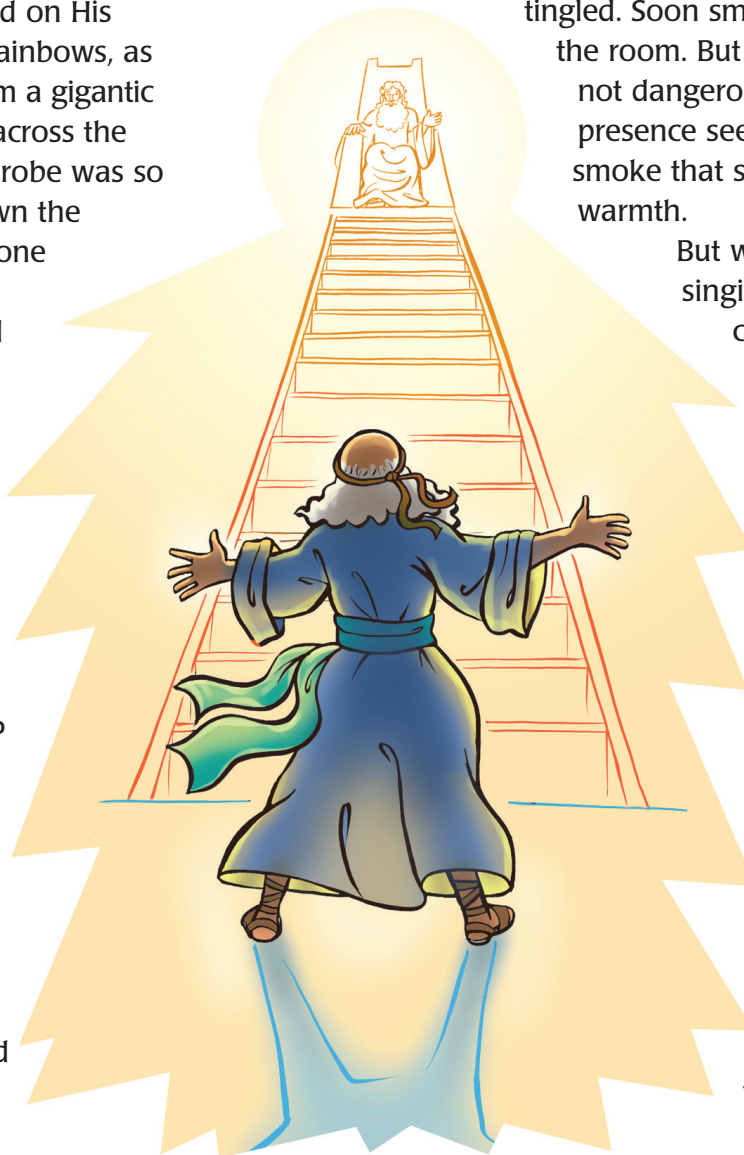
Isaiah studied the creatures. Angels! They were angels called seraphim, with six wings! With two of their wings they covered their faces so they did not

look at God because He was so holy. With two other wings they covered their feet—probably so they would not touch God. And with the remaining two wings, the angels were flying above God's head.

The whole room rang with the angels' beautiful music. It was so powerful, the doorposts shook. Isaiah's whole body tingled. Soon smoke from the altar filled the room. But Isaiah sensed it was not dangerous; it was holy. God's presence seemed to be a part of the smoke that surrounded Isaiah with warmth.

But what were the angels singing? Isaiah listened carefully. They were calling to one another, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3, NIV).

When Isaiah realized where he was, he began to cry. "I don't belong here with God," he said. "I have said things I shouldn't have said. I live with people who aren't kind to each other all the time. And I'm not always good to them. I'm not good enough to be with God.



The Message

Because of God's grace, my sins are forgiven when I ask Him.

Memory Verse

"Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for"

(Isaiah 6:7, NIV).

And yet, here I am! What is God going to do to me?"

As he stood there with his face upturned, he saw one of the seraphim fly to the burning altar. The angel took some tongs and very carefully lifted out a piece of burning coal. Then the angel flew to Isaiah and touched his lips with the glowing coal. It didn't hurt, and it didn't burn. The angel said very gently, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away."

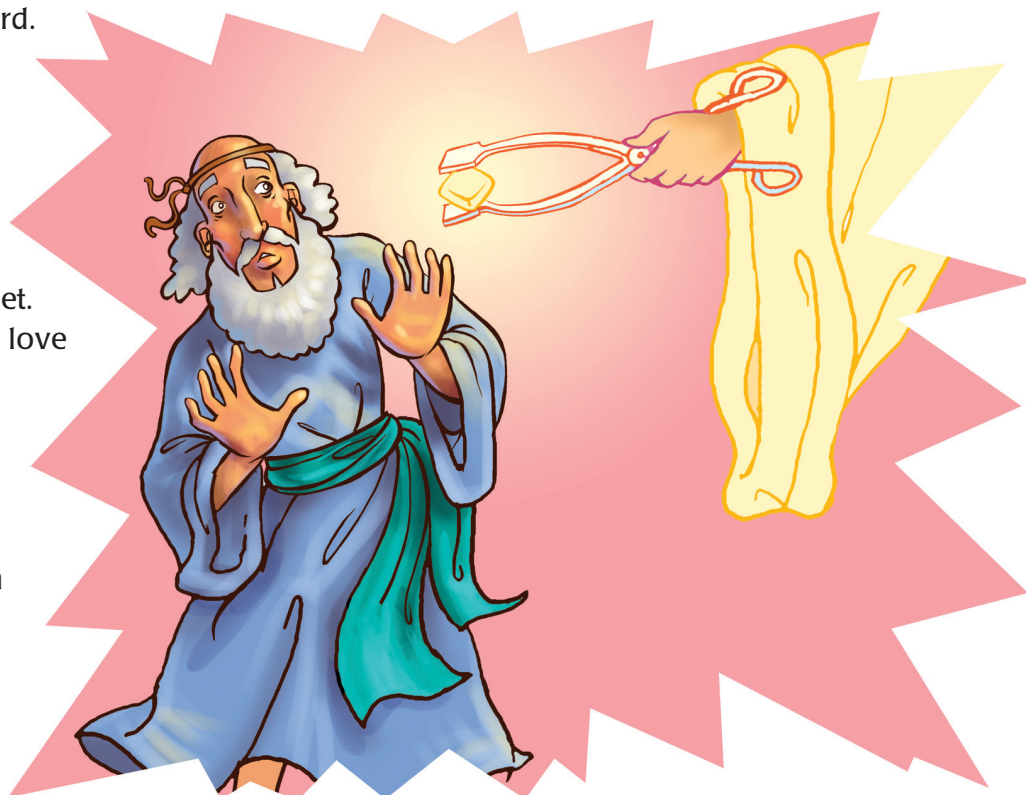
A wonderful sense of relief washed over Isaiah. His sins were gone! Before he could thank God for this blessing, God spoke to him. He spoke like a kind Father, concerned about His children because His children wouldn't listen to Him. God said, "Whom shall I send to take My messages to the people?"

Immediately Isaiah said, "Here am I, Lord. Send me!" With renewed love for God, he was ready to be God's messenger. God didn't force Isaiah to be a prophet. He first showed His love to Isaiah; then He allowed Isaiah to volunteer.

This was the beginning. For more than 60 years Isaiah delivered God's messages to God's people.

God loved Isaiah just as he was.

We call that love "grace." And because of God's grace Isaiah always chose to follow God. And God is still reaching out with love to each one of us. God offers us the same promise of forgiveness that He gave to Isaiah. If you believe Him and confess your sins as Isaiah did, the gift of forgiveness is yours. God is a Father who keeps His promises. He will always love you.



S A B B A T H

DO With your family, look for creatures that have wings. Then read today's lesson story. What did you learn about winged creatures?

READ Read and discuss Isaiah 6:7 together. What does "atone" mean? Who has atoned for your sins? How?

SING Sing "For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 26). Thank God for sending Jesus to atone for our sins.

Isaiah wrote many things about Jesus long, long before Jesus was born.



S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read about the seraphim in Isaiah 6:2, 3. Each seraph had _____ wings. How many times did they call, "Holy"? _____

DO Cut a paper shape of a piece of coal. Write the memory verse on it. Color it so it looks like a glowing coal. Teach the verse to your family.

SHARE Share the "Forgiven" booklet you made in Sabbath School.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Isaiah 6:1 with your family. Draw a picture of what you read.

DO Isaiah's vision came while he was in God's house. Read Habakkuk 2:20 and tell what it means. How do you act in God's house? Is it a holy place? Ask God to help you remember that.

DO Look at your "coal" memory verse reminder. Say the verse from memory.

SING Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" (*The SDA Hymnal*, no. 73) before prayer. Ask God to help you remember to be reverent in His church.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Isaiah 6:5-7 with your family.

DO Look in a book to learn three new things about coal. Tell your family about them.

DO Say your memory verse. Check it with your "coal" memory verse reminder.

DO Ask an adult to light a candle for you. Hold your hand near the flame. Do you feel the heat? Thank God for warmth.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE For family worship, read and discuss 1 John 1:9. Say your memory verse in your own words. Tell what it means to you.

DO Help with the laundry today. Ask your family: How is God like a washing machine? Thank God for washing away your sins.



T H U R S D A Y

READ For worship, read Isaiah 6:8 out loud together. Then look at the list of Old Testament books in the front of your Bible. Find names of other prophets who shared God's message.

THINK When you think of Bible prophets, you might picture older people who were wise. Who is the oldest person you know? Are they wise? Do they remind you that God planned for your salvation long, long ago? Ask God to make you wise.

DO Say your memory verse together. Ask your family what it means to them.

F R I D A Y

DO Dress up like Isaiah and tell how he saw God in the temple. Start by reading Isaiah 6:1. End by showing your family your forgiveness book and telling what it means to you.

SING Sing "God Is So Good" (Sing for Joy, no. 13). Ask each person to tell about God's grace to them. Add new verses. For example: "He healed my mom." (Repeat three times.) "He's so good to me."

DO Say your memory verse together. Then thank God for His goodness to you and your family.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Write the answer to each question on the lines. When all the answers are written, the vertical box will hold Isaiah's answer when God asked for a messenger.

- What was flying above God in Isaiah's vision?
- What did God want delivered to His people?
- What is another word for seraphim?
- Who was sitting on the throne?
- What filled the room?
- What is another word for God's love?

