

Dear Families

Here is this week's Roots material if you would like to use it. I hope you all have a good half term holiday.

Best Wishes

Val

God: a glimpse behind the curtain - Isaiah 6.1-8

Isaiah has a vision of God sitting on a throne in great splendour. An angel cries, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord'. Confronted by the majesty of God, Isaiah feels lost and unworthy. But an angel touches Isaiah's lips with a purifying hot coal and says that his sin is wiped out. Isaiah then responds to God's call, 'Who will go for us?', saying, 'Send me!'

This week we explore the mystery of knowing God. We may not have all the answers about God, but at least we can begin with some questions. Where are we on the journey into God's mystery, and how might we progress further?

A gathering prayer for children

Holy Spirit, fill us with peace.

Loving Jesus, embrace us in love.

Father God, make us strong in you. **Amen.**

Bible Reading – Isaiah 6: 1 - 8

Isaiah was a prophet, who carried God's messages to the people of Judah. The messages Isaiah carried were not always what the people wanted to hear, and he often had to deliver them to the most powerful person in the land, the king. Imagine having to tell someone so important that God was unhappy with them. Isaiah had to be a brave person to do it.

These are Isaiah's words, describing the time he was first asked to deliver a message for God: 'I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, way up above me. I was in the enormous Jerusalem Temple and the hem of the Lord's robe filled the entire space. There were angels there, too, each with six wings. They used two to fly, two to cover their faces and two to cover their feet. One of the angels called out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

The entrance to the Temple shook at the angel's voice and the room filled with smoke. I was overwhelmed and shouted out, "I am not holy enough to see what I see! I am just a man, with unclean lips and I live among people whose lips are also unclean!"

There was an altar in the Temple and hot coals for burning sacrifices. One of the angels took a burning piece of coal with a pair of tongs and flew to me. The angel touched my mouth with the coal and said, "Now that your lips have been cleaned by the fire, your sins have been removed from you."

Then the Lord, vast and mysterious, spoke, asking "Who shall I send as our messenger; who will go?" And I said: "Here I am; send me!"

Stop and share

Imagine how large a robe would have to be, to fill an entire temple – try to visualise it.

How does this description differ from how we usually imagine angels to look?

According to the law of Moses, anything or anyone who entered God's presence had to be pure. To be unclean was to be made impure by sin or other human activities specified by the law.

The main way of being made pure to enter God's presence was through sacrifice.

The Israelites would bring food – grain or live animals – to the altar to be burned to make themselves clean.

Talk together and talk to God

Discuss the theme, then bring your thoughts together in prayer

- How would you feel if you had a face-to-face encounter with God?
- Isaiah had doubts and uncertainties about himself and his role in God's plan – do you think everyone does?
- Who can you ask if you are confused or have questions about big stories like this?

Multisensory worship

Think about how we experience God in worship

You will need: paper plates, one per child, felt tips.

- Remind the children of the five senses: sight/sound/smell/taste/touch. Divide the plate into five sections (like a cake) and ask the children to add a suitable body-part symbol for each sense.
- Ask the children to identify what Isaiah saw, heard, smelled, tasted and touched during his encounter with God. They could write/draw these in each section.
- Reflect together on the ways in which the senses are used in Christian worship. Can they think of different ways that smell or touch, or other senses, could be used in worship in a way that is pleasing to God?

Share the Word for Young Children

Isaiah saw a vision of God sat on the throne covered in a robe.

There were fiery creatures with six wings calling 'Holy, Holy'.

The Temple was filled with smoke and on the altar was a fire.

One of the fiery creatures took metal tongs and lifted a hot coal to his lips.

'Who will go for us?' God cried.

'Send me,' Isaiah said.