

God: A glimpse behind the curtain

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!"



See session outline on p.28.

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the ✦ to share these points with the children.

- ✦ 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.