

=THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 23

ISAIAH

Objects to have:

The sign for this new book: ISAIAH

Salvation

Five sheets of white paper on each of which is drawn a pair of eyeglasses (have the glasses drawn in the same location on each page.) Have the center of the “lens” on each pair of glasses cut out. Behind the lens on page 1 paste gold paper. Behind the lens on page 2 paste black paper. Behind the lens on page 3 paste red paper. Behind the lens on page 4 paste white paper. Behind the lens on page 5 paste green paper. Have the sheets arranged in that order before going to class.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

In Sunday school we are learning a lot about what is in the Bible. Every Sunday for many Sundays we have been talking about a different book in the Bible. (Hold up your Bible.) See this one Book? There are many books in this one Book. How many books are there in the Bible? (Give the class an opportunity to answer that there are 66.) The Bible is divided into two parts. Here is the Old Testament and here is the New Testament. (Show the children the two divisions.) We are still hearing about books that are in the Old Testament. (Say the books learned so far.)

Some of the books are named for men. While we say again the books that have been learned so far, raise your hands whenever we say the name of a man. (Say them slowly with the class so that the children will have time to think about whether the name is the name of a man.) Some of these books are named for ladies. Can you remember the books that we have studied so far that are named for ladies? (Help the children to remember Ruth and Esther.)

Today’s lesson is about another book in the Bible. That book is located right here. (Show the children the location of the book of Isaiah in your Bible. Show them how many pages it covers. Have the children say the name of the book, Isaiah, with you.) This is another book that is named for a man.

Telling the story:

Isaiah was a rich man. He had plenty of everything that he needed. He lived in a beautiful house. He had nice clothes. He had the best of food to eat. He could go to the best schools. He was a very important man. Isaiah was not poor; he was rich. Isaiah was not stupid; he was smart. Isaiah loved God. Knowing God made him wise. God had some special things for Isaiah to see and to do.

God wanted Isaiah to be a preacher. First God had to let Isaiah see something. (Pick up the sheets of paper with the glasses drawn on them.) Let’s pretend that this pair of eyeglasses belonged to Isaiah. We will pretend that Isaiah saw a lot of things through these glasses. Now, Isaiah did not need to wear glasses to see the things which God had him see. If you listen very carefully, you will understand what I mean.

God gave Isaiah a vision, like a dream. In the vision Isaiah saw the Lord. Isaiah saw God sitting on His throne. See the gold in the glasses. Gold makes us think of Heaven because Heaven has streets of gold. How wonderful it was to see in his dream God on His throne! How wonderful it was! God is entirely good. God is absolutely perfect. There is no evil or wrong in God. There is no hatred in God. He loves us with a pure, wonderful love.

Isaiah saw angels around God. He heard the angels singing praises to God. He heard them singing, “Holy, holy, holy. The whole earth is full of God’s glory. Holy is God the Father, holy is God the Son, and holy is God the Holy Spirit.” Isaiah saw those angels, and he heard them singing. Isaiah could just look and look at the marvelous sight which he saw.

Then, Isaiah looked at himself. (Put the first page behind all the other pages. Let the page with the black behind the lens show.) Have you ever been outside playing in your old clothes? Maybe you were playing in the dirt with trucks, or maybe you were playing on swings and sliding down a slide. Then someone came to visit at your house. Maybe the visitor was dressed up. If it was a man who came, maybe he was wearing a suit and a tie and a nice clean shirt. He was clean and his hair was combed. If it was a lady, maybe she was wearing a pretty dress and dressy shoes. Next to the visitor you saw how dirty you were, and you felt dirty, too. That’s the way it was when Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne. Isaiah suddenly saw himself as he really was. But, Isaiah was thinking of what he was like on the inside—in his heart, not on the outside. Isaiah said to the Lord, “Dear Lord, I see that I am a sinner. Next to You there is no good in me at all. Oh, woe is me! Because I am a sinner, I don’t always say the right things. The people around me don’t always say the right things. I have seen You, Lord, and I see how unclean I am.” That’s how everybody looks; everybody is a sinner.

The Lord heard Isaiah’s prayer. Jesus hears us, too, when we tell Him about the sins that we have committed. He wants to forgive us; so, when we tell Him that we have sinned, He will forgive us. The way Jesus does that (put page 2 behind the others so that the page with the red behind the lens shows) is with His own blood. Jesus let His blood flow from His body as He hung on the cross. After Jesus rose from his body's being dead, He went to Heaven and placed His blood on the altar in the holiest of holies in Heaven. So, when we have trusted Him, His blood keeps on cleansing us from sin.

When Isaiah told the Lord how unclean Isaiah was, the Lord heard his prayer. The Lord cleansed his heart. (Put page 3 behind the others so that the page with the white in the lens shows.) There are many things that we are not supposed to do until our bodies are clean. We must wash our hands before we eat so that we will not put germs into our mouths with our food. Before we go visiting someone, we should wash—maybe take a bath—and put on clean clothes. Maybe we take our baths before bedtime. Before we come to Sunday school, we should wash our faces and hands and wear clean clothes. Before we can do work for Jesus, we must be clean on the inside; clean from our sins. Isaiah got cleansed; he was clean before he could serve the Lord.

After Isaiah was cleansed from his sins, then God asked, “Who will go tell people My message? Who will go for Me?”

Isaiah said, “I will go. See, here I am. Send me to do Your work, dear Lord.” The Lord saw that Isaiah was willing to do His work. Isaiah was wanting to be a better person; he was also wanting to learn more and more about the Bible, God’s Word. (Put the fourth page behind all the others so that the lens with the green behind them will show.) God saw that Isaiah was willing to do His work. God said, “Go, Isaiah. Tell the people all around you and in all of your country the message that I have for them.”

Isaiah had a lot to tell the people. Isaiah’s message from God is a long message. (Put down the “glasses” and pick up your Bible.) See, there are 66 chapters in this book of Isaiah. Isaiah told the people all about the Devil. Isaiah told the people where Satan came from. Written down in this book called Isaiah, it tells us that the Devil was an angel in Heaven. The Devil decided that he wanted to be like God. God threw him out of Heaven. Isaiah also told the people that Jesus would come to earth someday. Jesus is always more powerful than the Devil.

The Devil will be thrown into hell someday to stay there! God told Isaiah all these wonderful truths!

It was 700 years before Jesus came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem, and yet Isaiah could tell the people that Jesus was going to come! Isaiah told the people that Jesus would die for their sins.

People were saved because they believed that Jesus would die for them. Isaiah had a lot to tell the people, but the words which Isaiah had to tell the people were not his words. They were the words which God told Isaiah to say. God the Holy Spirit told Isaiah what to tell the people. Then Isaiah wrote down the words that God told him to tell the people.

Some of the people listened to Isaiah. Even kings listened to Isaiah! Isaiah lived during the time of four kings. At least one of the kings got saved as he listened to Isaiah! Many of the people of the country got saved, too! They all decided that they would live for God. Isaiah was a great preacher! He did what God wanted him to do.

Are you always going to do what God wants you to do? I surely do hope so! Be like Isaiah was.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Isaiah 6:8, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”