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Description automatically generated**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**Take some time to build relationships with the students:

* Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.
* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): If you could talk about anything for the next hour nonstop, what would it be about?

**INTRODUCTION**

**(Optional to add global worker video here)**

**Watch this video and share key points that stood out to each person**

Surrendering is a difficult thing to do. As people, we often think of surrender as a sign of weakness. We picture a Knight shamefully admitting defeat after a battle lost. But what we are called for is so much more than to shamefully give in to God’s will. It should be out of thanksgiving for the grace that the Lord has given us that we joyfully surrender our hearts and obey God’s commands. As we see in Isaiah and Acts, gratitude and an overwhelming zeal for the Lord is what drives God’s people to go and spread the word of God to all people.

While God has a unique calling for each of our lives,, we are all called to, like the Great Commission tells us, “go therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). This means that we are given the choice to either attempt to hide from our calling like Jonah, or to unashamedly proclaim the Lord’s name like in Acts.

**\*If you’re in a small group setting, consider walking through each passage and, before moving on, ask students to highlight one way this passage illustrates “Surrender”.**

**\*If you’re in a large group, consider breaking the students into smaller groups, assigning each group a passage and the connecting questions; then have each group read their passage to everyone and share their answers, effectively teaching the rest of the group the lesson.**

***READ Isaiah 6:1-10***

1. What was Isaiah’s first reaction to seeing the throne room? Why?
2. What do you think drove Isaiah’s eagerness to be sent by God?

***READ Jonah 3:1-5***

1. What are the similarities and differences between Isaiah and Jonah’s stories?
2. What caused to people of Nineveh to believe in God?

***READ ACTS 13:1-3***

1. What did the church at Antioch do after hearing from the Holy Spirit? Why was it important to fast and pray before sending them?
2. How might God be calling you to serve Him?

**WRAP UP**

We just read three examples of how individuals reacted to God’s calling. People don’t need to travel across the world to serve God and spread the Gospel. There are plenty of opportunities to serve in your community. Local Nolo is local missions work where the students at Nolensville were able to experience what it’s like to help their community. They were able to serve orphans and widows just like James commands us to and were able to go out and evangelize to strangers like the Great Commission commands (Jm. 1:27, Matt. 8:19). But that doesn’t mean you should wait around for another youth event to serve. Every day there are opportunities to evangelize, whether to people at school or in the grocery store. And opportunities to volunteer like nursing homes or the neighbor’s house. The question isn’t if you can serve, it’s how.

**Encourage your group to share their faith with at least two different people this week.**

**Prayer Moment**

**Have students split into groups of two or three and pray over each other.**

Give the students a few minutes to be able to take turns praying for each other. Encourage them to pray that they’ll each take the time to follow where God is calling them and to lean on God’s strength to boldly proclaim his name to the people around them this week.

**EXTENDED CUT**

Today’s lesson has three key passages. But we see they each hold the same theme of surrender. As Christian’s we are called to surrender our lives to God. But what does that look like?

Isaiah 6 gives us a beautiful picture of what obedience looks like. When he saw a vision of the heavenly throne room, immediately he realized just how sinful and unclean he was. After this, one of the seraphim (an angelic creature of great power) touched the coal to his mouth and atoned for his sin. So, when God asked the question “who will I send” (v. 8), out of his gratitude and humility Isaiah immediately offered to serve. The coal that was used to prepare Isaiah was used symbolically; this coal was taken from where sacrifices to atone for sin were offered.

Jonah 3 shows another picture of what obedience can look like. Too often in our lives do we try and argue with God. Wishing that He would change His will, to line up with ours. And although Jonah did end up following what God had commanded, he did so begrudgingly. Verse 3 shows Jonah delivering what at first appears to be the worst sermon ever. But despite any failings on Jonah’s part, God used that message to turn the people of Nineveh to Him.

The last passage is in Acts 13, and it shows what immediate obedience in individuals and in the church can look like. Despite persecution, the people at the church at Antioch were faithfully worshiping the Lord and fasting. They were acting faithfully and surrendering their lives to God, so when the Holy Spirit told them to send Barnabas and Saul, their response was immediate.

1. **What was Isaiah’s first reaction to seeing the throne room? Why?**

We can see that Isaiah was in awe of what he saw in the throne room. The holiness of that moment was clearly hard to comprehend but Isaiah understood enough to realize just how unclean he was. After seeing the holiness of that moment, he looked at himself and his people and realized how drastically sinful we are.

1. **What do you think drove Isaiah’s eagerness to be sent by God?**

Isaiah clearly had a love for God. But one key part of this chapter was how Isaiah first had to come to the realization of how drastically sinful he was, saying he was of unclean lips (v. 5). He didn’t proudly think he was too righteous not obey. But because he humbly acknowledged how sinful he was and how much he needed God to save him. After the seraphim had touched the coal to his lips to atone for his sin, he was overcome by such gratitude for the Lord’s mercy. It’s out of humbly knowing who we are in comparison to who God is that motivates us to obey God commands.

1. **What are the similarities and differences between Isaiah and Jonah’s stories?**

While there are many differences between the two, the key difference is their willingness to surrender. Jonah was a faithful servant to God until it was actually put to the test. Once God commanded him to do something he didn’t want to, Jonah tried to run away to Tarshish.

Isaiah on the other hand eagerly offered himself up to do God’s work. It wasn’t a reluctance but an immediate response to serve. Isaiah saw how sinful he was and how holy God is and humbly submitted to God’s will.

1. **What caused to people of Nineveh to believe in God? What does that tell us about what happens when we share the gospel?**

Jonah walked across the entire city preaching, but the only thing that scripture recorded him say was “In forty days Nineveh will be demolished!” (v. 4). While that might easily get people’s attention at first, it doesn’t sound like Jonah was trying his hardest. Despite Jonah’s heart wanting to disobey, God used this halfhearted obedience to turn the entire city to Him. It wasn’t Jonah’s preaching ability that caused the people of Ninevah to repent but it was God moving in their hearts.

Although we shouldn’t obey halfheartedly, this is a great example of how it’s not our job to save people, it’s our job to surrender and obey. God can use us to change people’s lives, and we should be willing vessels. But at the end of the day, we should remember that it is not through our strength but God working through us.

1. **What did the church at Antioch do after hearing from the Holy Spirit? Why was it important to fast and pray before sending them?**

“They had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off” (v. 3). The church immediately sent them off. They didn’t stop to question God, they didn’t sit their worrying or delayed the travel to prepare more, instead when the Holy Spirit told them to go, they went. The church at Antioch was clearly intentional with their worship and prayer. They made it a priority to not only praise God but to take the time to slow down and hear his voice. It was during this time that the Holy Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul. They did not want to miss an opportunity to hear God’s voice, so they listened.

List of optional videos to use:

Explore God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FroA5dPiL38>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzSAozJG6bA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ev-ShCVen1Q>

JI Packer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seBsfKi-v2w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEhcfkSJqJQ>

David Platt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woXEJZwUk4w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0wj_sabRbo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TTiA_dpsvc>