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A Bible Tale

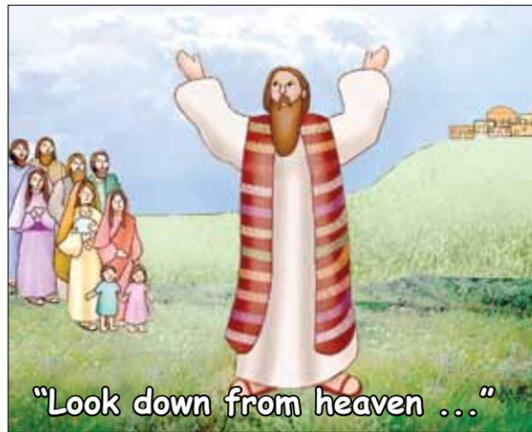
Isaiah Prays for God's Help

Catholic News Service

Isaiah looked up into the sky and prayed: "Look down from heaven and regard us from your holy and glorious palace! ... Were Abraham not to know us, nor Israel to acknowledge us, you, Lord, are our Father, our redeemer you are named forever."

Isaiah was a humble man who only wanted his people to follow God's laws. When he was a younger man, he saw a vision of the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne. He felt unworthy for such a vision, but the Lord cleansed him of his sin and sent him to speak to the people of Israel.

Now, so many years later, Isaiah was pleading with God for the sake of Israel. He paced back and forth and called to God again: "Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from



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your ways and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage."

Isaiah was angry because of the things he had watched happen to his people, to his country, to all that belonged to his God: "Why have the wicked invaded your holy place? ... Why have we been like those you

do not rule, who do not bear your name?"

He picked up a stone and threw it as far as he could: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you."

Then Isaiah began to fill with hope. Instead of his own anger, he could feel the justice and hope of the

Lord: "Thus your name would be made known to your enemies and the nations would tremble before you, while you wrought awesome deeds that we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from old."

Isaiah became silent and meditated on the message God was giving to him. Then Isaiah whispered reverently, "No ear has ever heard, no eye has even seen any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!"

Kneeling before the presence of the Lord, Isaiah bowed his head: "Behold you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean men. ... Be not so very angry, Lord, keep not our guilt forever in mind."

Seventh-Grade Surprise

It's Coming to You, Too

BY JOSLYN SCHULTZ
The Junior Observer
Correspondent

After going to the church summit, on Sunday, Oct. 26 to learn about God and Jesus, as someone "unofficially" there, I learned that seventh-graders, you are in for a big surprise next time.

They had prayer, Mass, games, and talks, and there was lunch from Jason's Deli — ham, turkey, and veggie sandwiches with a cookie, pickle, chips, and water.

Seminarian Trevor Frank was at the youth summit to praise God with the next generation.

Bishop David Malloy said to the youth groups, "If you are poor in spirit you should go to confession. If you are poor in spirit you need to talk to Jesus. He wants to work with you. Tell Him everything.

"Don't say that's all nice, but I'm too young. Your prayers are effective. After sitting on the hillsides listening to Jesus speak to

all of you, I need you to confess with me. I need to ask you for prayers for the sick and their families.

"Before you go off and start a family that's where you learn how to pray, in your families.

"Stand with me, your prayers matter. Pray for your heart. To get your heart ready for the sacrament of marriage, and have the children God has meant for you.

"You are not alone, in your faith, or in your struggles."



Kids waved the lights on their cell phones during a song at the Youth Summit.



(The Junior Observer photos by Joslyn Schultz)

Bishop David Malloy talks to a chaperone at the Youth Summit.



Students from St. James Parish in Belvidere get together for a photo before the start of the summit.

— Joslyn Schultz (right) is a member of St. Mary/St. Patrick Parish of Durand/Irish Grove and a seventh-grader at Dakota Junior High School. She accompanied her grandmother Sharon Boehlefeld, Observer features editor, to the 2014 Rockford Diocese Catholic Youth Summit to report and take pictures for The Junior Observer.



(Observer photo by S. Boehlefeld)