



Isaiah was written about seven centuries before Christ, warning the people of Israel that they were on a path leading to God’s judgment. But judgment isn’t the end of the story. There is also comfort in the promise that God will have compassion, and ultimately rescue His people through His Servant. Isaiah also offers us the opportunity to ask the questions: What path are WE on? What is the way forward?

Week Two: ENCOUNTERING GOD

Text: Isaiah 6:1-13

One encounter can change the trajectory of your life! From the example of Isaiah, we see what happens when people come face to face with God. When we confront the overwhelming Glory of God, we are changed. First, God removes our blinders, and we see ourselves in a whole new way. We come to the realization that the things we thought gave us security have actually distracted us from God, and that our own sense of “worthiness” has kept us from fully experiencing His love for us. Next, we find ourselves moved off the side-lines to join God on mission. We volunteer...for HARD assignments...and measure our success not by our results, but by our faithfulness to the mission regardless of results we can see.

Discussion Questions: *The following are based on the “My Application” Questions found in the bulletin this week. Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.*

- Have you ever had a life-changing encounter? Describe it.
- When did you encounter God for the first time?
- What are some things in your life that could be blinders, keeping your from really seeing the holiness and glory of God?
- Read Isaiah 6:1-7. What are some aspects of Isaiah’s experience that open your eyes to God’s holiness?
- Why does God invite Isaiah to volunteer for his mission, rather than commanding him to go? (see Isaiah 6:8) What part are you currently playing in the mission of God?
- Read 1 Cor. 4:2, 3:6-7. Why is faithfulness the measure of success and not fruit (results)? Does this encourage you?

Prayer Time:

As a group, pray for each other that each of you would encounter God in a way that changes the trajectory of your life. What did you each find personally challenging about this message? For example:

- Difficulty seeing God because the search for security has distracted you.
- Focus on your own worthiness that keeps you from fully experiencing the Love of God.
- Reluctance to volunteer for one of God's hard assignments.
- Discouragement on the mission because you're measuring your success by fruit (results) rather than your faithfulness.

As each person shares, have a group member pray for that one before you move on.

Memory Verse:

*"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined!
For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."*

Isaiah 6:5

Application:

Small Group Leader, there are two great opportunities coming up for you and your group members to practice volunteering for missional assignments:

1. **Great Adventure** this summer. This is our annual church-wide effort to saturate our communities with the Love of Jesus. People can serve in the following ways:
 - a. Host a Back Yard Bible Club. (July 8-12)
 - b. Drive a team of teens to the clubs they will lead.
 - c. Man a game booth at Summerfest. (July 13) This is a great project for groups to do together.
2. **Defying Gravity** this fall. As a church, we will be examining Biblical principles of stewardship that can free us up to follow Christ more fully, allowing us to find our security in God alone. All small groups are encouraged to participate by engaging with FPU (Financial Peace University) and by identifying one new leader for an additional group.