



Pastor Steve: Encountering God's Holiness to be on God's mission

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As you work through this week's text in Isaiah, remember the big idea that **in order to be on God's mission, we must first encounter God's holiness.**

CONNECT

- What is something that scares you? Why do you think it affects you so?
- How have you historically felt about the commands of Scripture to fear God (cf: Deuteronomy 10:12-22)?
- Our culture tends to think of fears as something to be overcome and defeated. Why do you think Scripture commands such a different perspective?

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah 6:1-8, we are presented with one of the most visceral and emotive depictions of a human being encountering the living God in all of Scripture. In this section—which may be a vision, or a real lived event—Isaiah endures the holy and terrifying presence of God such that he is fundamentally changed by the experience. He is transformed by God's grace from a sinner into the prophet we know today—all predicated on the fear of the Lord.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Isaiah 6:1-4

Discuss: What does *holy* mean? If the goal is to communicate to Isaiah God's holiness, why does this sight seem so deliberately terrifying?

Read: Isaiah 6:5

Discuss: How does Isaiah respond to God's holiness? If you were to place yourself in Isaiah's position in this passage, how do you think you would respond to this experience? What do you think it would take for you respond the way Isaiah did (confession)?

Read: 2 Chronicles 26:16-23

Discuss: Like King Uzziah, Isaiah is believed to be a descendent of the tribe of Judah—but only descendants of Levi are permitted to serve in the Temple. How does understanding Uzziah's death give some additional context to Isaiah's response?

Read: Isaiah 6:6-8

Discuss: This picture of God's grace points to the larger truth of salvation in Jesus. If we consider that God both forgave and *purified*—in a sense, *made holy*—Isaiah, how might Christ's forgiveness also make *us* holy?

APPLICATION

- Being continually challenged by the holiness of God as we are simultaneously called up to experience holiness ourselves fosters sanctification and deeper faith. Discuss how you presently seek God and an ever growing awareness of his holiness in your life.

PRAYER

- Pray that God would reveal himself to greater degrees to you—even if it is scary.
- Pray that the Lord speaks to your heart concerning the call to holiness and the fear of God in your life.
- Pray that the Lord might reveal to you how you can partner with his work of sanctification in your life.