



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

June 23 - 29

Isaiah 6

Things to Know

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Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Sermon Recap

God's holiness brings us low.

When Isaiah saw the Lord, he didn't clap—he collapsed. A true encounter with God doesn't inflate the ego; it shatters pride.

1. God's grace lifts us up.

The same God who convicts also cleanses. From the altar of judgment came the fire of forgiveness—pointing us to the cross.

2. God's mission sends us out.

Isaiah wasn't perfect, just purified. Grace didn't just restore him; it recruited him. When God says, "Who will go?" grace-filled hearts say, "Here I am."

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Discussion Questions

1. Isaiah 6:1-4 — What stands out to you most about Isaiah's vision of the Lord?
How does seeing God as "high and lifted up" challenge the way we typically think about His presence in our daily lives?
 2. Isaiah 6:5 — Why does Isaiah cry out "Woe is me" when he sees the Lord?
What does this tell us about the connection between God's holiness and our awareness of sin?
 3. Isaiah 6:6-7 — What is the significance of the coal from the altar touching Isaiah's lips? How does this act point forward to the cleansing we receive through Jesus?
 4. Isaiah 6:8 — Why do you think Isaiah responds so quickly and boldly to God's call, even without knowing the details?
What might keep us from having that same willingness?
 5. Personal reflection — Where in your life is God calling you to say, "Here I am, send me"? What would it look like to live with that kind of daily posture before the Lord?
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Read

Read Isaiah 6 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah's Vision of the Lord

6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

Isaiah's Commission from the Lord

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

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Isaiah 6:1-8

Living on Mission In Community

When Isaiah saw the holiness of God, he was undone. But he didn't stay there—because God didn't leave him there. In mercy, God cleansed him and then called him. The same is true for us. When we encounter the holiness of God, we are confronted with our sin, but we are also invited into grace. God doesn't show us our sin to shame us but to cleanse us, forgive us, and send us. The gospel isn't just about getting us to heaven—it's about getting us on mission. Like Isaiah, our response to God's mercy should be full surrender. So the question is: Where is God calling you to say, "Here I am, send me"?

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

Leader Resources

Small Group Curriculum: “Here I Am: Send Me” (Isaiah 6:1–8)

1. Session Overview

Main Theme: A vision of God’s holiness leads to conviction of sin, cleansing by grace, and a call to mission.

Key Scripture: Isaiah 6:1–8

Main Idea: When we see God for who He truly is, we see ourselves rightly—and from that place of humility, we are made ready to respond in faith and obedience.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 6:8 — “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

2. Opening: Community and Accountability

Icebreaker:

Have you ever been in a moment or place that left you in awe—speechless or overwhelmed? What was it?

Accountability and Prayer:

Break into groups of 2–3. Ask:

- “Is there any way we can pray for your personal walk with God this week?”
Encourage leaders to go first and model vulnerability.

3. Scripture Reading

Read Isaiah 6:1–8 aloud. Have different people read verses 1–4, 5–7, and 8 to emphasize the movement of the passage.

4. Teaching Points

I. A Vision of God's Holiness (vv. 1–4)

- Isaiah sees the Lord seated on a throne, high and lifted up. God is sovereign and exalted even amid earthly instability (King Uzziah had just died—v. 1).
- The seraphim call out: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.” This is the only attribute of God repeated three times in Scripture—pointing to His utter otherness.
- The temple shakes; smoke fills the room. The effect of God's holiness is overwhelming.

“The holiness of God is the most difficult of all God's attributes to explain, partly because it is one of His essential attributes that is not shared inherently by man.” — R.C. Sproul

II. A Realization of Man's Sinfulness (v. 5)

- Isaiah's immediate response is not praise—but despair: “Woe is me!”
- The closer you get to God, the more aware you become of your sin.
- Isaiah realizes his unclean lips, symbolic of a sinful heart (Matt. 12:34). He also recognizes he lives among others just as sinful.

III. A Cleansing by God's Grace (vv. 6–7)

- One of the seraphim brings a live coal from the altar—God initiates grace.
- His lips are touched and his guilt taken away. This is symbolic of atonement—a preview of what Jesus would accomplish fully at the cross.

“God's holiness exposes us, but His grace redeems us.”

IV. A Calling to Go (v. 8)

- Now cleansed, Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord: “Whom shall I send?”
- Isaiah responds not out of obligation but transformation: “Here am I. Send me!”

- True mission is always the result of grace. God doesn't call the qualified—He qualifies the called.

5. Discussion Questions

1. Verse 1: What does it mean for God to be “high and lifted up”? How does Isaiah's vision challenge our casual view of God?
2. Verse 5: Why do you think Isaiah's immediate response to God's holiness is “Woe is me”? What does this say about how we should approach God?
3. Verses 6–7: What does the coal from the altar represent? How does this scene help us understand the gospel?
4. Verse 8: Why does Isaiah say “Here am I” without even knowing the assignment? What does this teach us about surrender?
5. Personal: Where is God calling you to say, “Send me”? In your home? Your workplace? Your church?

6. Application Points

- Worship begins with a right view of God. Begin your day this week by reflecting on the holiness of God (consider reading Isaiah 6:1–4 each morning).
- Confession brings healing. Take time this week to name and confess sins before God. Let His grace cleanse and commission you anew.
- Say yes to God. Don't wait for the perfect assignment—surrender now. Ask God to use you wherever you are.
- Live sent. Whether it's praying for a neighbor, encouraging a friend, or sharing the gospel, take a tangible step of obedience this week in response to His grace.

7. Closing Reflection and Prayer

Reflect:

What has kept you from seeing God as holy, yourself as sinful, and your life as sent?

Close with a time of prayer, inviting the Spirit to stir up a deeper awareness of God's holiness and a greater willingness to respond in obedience. Encourage silent confession, then offer a corporate prayer of surrender.

8. Memory Verse

Isaiah 6:8

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Encourage the group to memorize it this week and pray it each morning as a posture of surrender.

9. Leader's Notes

- Prepare by studying Isaiah 6 in depth; consider reading R.C. Sproul's “The Holiness of God” for insight.
- This passage may evoke strong emotions. Some in your group may feel unworthy. Be prepared to gently remind them of the gospel.
- Encourage open sharing—but model humility and lead with transparency.
- If time allows, invite a group member to share a story of how God has called and used them recently.