

THE AWESOME HOLINESS OF GOD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ISAIAH 6:1-13

- 1 **Isaiah was sent as a prophet to confront Israel with their sinful plight and to proclaim God's gracious plan to save his people.** This salvation would come through a Savior, born of a virgin, from the line of David, who would suffer as a substitute, and through his death provide life for all who trust in Him. This book points us to Christ as it explains both the judgment and the comfort of God.

 Look in a study Bible or check out <http://esvstudybible.org/wp-content/uploads/excerpt-isaiah-intro.pdf> to read an introduction to the book of Isaiah.

 Write down three important introductory points that you can share with the group to help everyone acclimate to a new study.

- 2 **Read Isaiah 6:1-4, and in the chart below fill in what Isaiah saw, heard, or experienced, and what that tells us about God.** Meditate on the person of God as He reveals himself. Does that change your view of yourself? If so, how?

What Isaiah saw, heard, experienced

What it tells us about God

- 3 **Isaiah 6:2 refers to angelic beings that are named nowhere else in Scripture, though they resemble the "living creatures" of Revelation 4:6-9.**

 Why do you think the seraphim (fiery ones) cover their faces and feet?

 What could we learn from them about worship?

- 4 **Isaiah 6:9-10 are often overlooked or bypassed because they surfaces a difficult truth about God.** He will give rebellious, arrogant, indifferent sinners over to the hardness of their own hearts and harden them in it such that they receive the bitter fruit of judgment.

 How do the following references help you understand the idea of a hardened heart (Rom. 1:18-21; Eph. 4:18)?

 Matthew, Mark and Luke all quote Isaiah 6:9-10 in the context of Jesus telling the parable of the sower. Look at one example (Mark 4:10-12). Why do you think that contextual usage is significant?

 What lesson should we learn about receiving the Word? Note the principle of (Mark 4:23-25) - If you accept, more will be given. If you reject, more will be taken.

5 **In Isaiah 6:5, the prophet confesses that he is undone, lost and spiritually polluted.** He says, "I am a man of unclean lips." According to (Matt. 12:34-35), unclean lips are caused by an unclean _____.

♥ *What does this text tell us about the deepest need of man? What should we learn about the source of our corrupt words and actions?*

♥ *Where does real change need to start?*

⚙️ *Before we can minister to others, we must permit God to minister to us? Why was this important to Isaiah's story (Isaiah 6:5)?*

6 **Guilt is the inner reality of our deviant nature.** Sin refers to specific instances of shortcomings in regards to God's law. In Isaiah 6:7, both guilt and sin are atoned for by means of a _____, symbolized by the burning coal from the altar (v. 6).

📖 *What do (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22) say about what a holy God requires to atone for sin?*

⚙️ *How does Jesus fit into concept of a holy God (Isaiah 6:3), a sinful humanity (Isaiah 6:5), and the need for a sacrifice (Isaiah 6:6-7)? Perhaps John the Baptist's words in (John 1:29), or the apostle's words in (Rev. 5:9-11) will help answer the question.*

7 **Isaiah 6:8 records Isaiah's response after encountering a holy yet gracious God.** He didn't know the nature of the mission, the length of the responsibility, the location of ministry, the content of the message or the degree of difficulty in the task – yet he volunteered to go. He was overwhelmed by grace and simply wanted to submit and serve.

PRAYER REQUESTS

♥ *What kind of response have you had recently to the will or call of God on your life? Share some reflections with your group, and let them pray with/for you.*

♥ *If we are reticent or resistant to God's call and will for our lives, what might that tell us about our experience of grace, or our encounter with his holiness?*

8 **What does it say about God, that he would call someone to a task while acknowledging that they will have few positive results (Isaiah 6:9-13)?**

9 **Sometimes confession and worship are the most appropriate responses to a passage.** After reading Isaiah 6, consider taking fifteen full minutes just for this.
