

ENCOUNTERS

Isaiah

Growth Group Opener:

Has there ever been a moment when you saw something, maybe a person, a place, or a truth, that made you feel small in a good way?

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Why does it matter that Isaiah's vision of God's throne came at a time when the human throne had been recently vacated?

Has a loss of something stable ever opened your eyes to something about God you hadn't seen, or couldn't see, before?

Read John 12: 32-41

What does it mean that the throne Isaiah saw and the cross Jesus was lifted on are described in the same way? How might this reshape our understanding of "glory?"

In light of these passages, where has your own concept of God become too small?

The same God the seraphim cannot look directly at is the same Jesus who lets sinners eat with him and weep at his feet.

How might such holiness and such approachability change how you come to him?

Compare Isaiah 6:5 with Luke 5:8. Why do you think a true glimpse of God produces this kind of undoing? What does this reveal about how transformation actually begins?

Like Isaiah, where in your life are you being invited to confess something as not only your own sin, but also part of a shared brokenness in your family, church, or nation?

The cleansing coal touched Isaiah at the very place he confessed his uncleanness. What parallels can we draw between v.6-7 and the work of Jesus?

We see Isaiah behold God, be undone by what he saw, be cleansed by God, and then be sent. Why is that order both important and necessary?

Where might the Spirit be asking, "Whom shall I send?" in your life right now, and what would it cost you to personally respond with "Here I am, send me?"

Prayer:

Father, you are so holy. Thank you for coming down into the darkness to cleanse and redeem us. Give us the courage to confess where we are unclean and let your mercy meet us there. Cleanse us and send us, Lord. In the name of Jesus, amen.