

ISAIAH 6:1-8

14 JANUARY 2024

ICE BREAKER: What is one characteristic you most appreciate in a friend?

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 3-5) This passage describes the prophet Isaiah's **near-death experience**. What was it that grips Isaiah to **fear for life**? Experiencing the **holiness of God**.

Emphasis of a truth in the Bible is expressed by **repetition**. Consider some of **God's attributes**: love, justice, mercy, power, wisdom, and holiness. Of all God's attributes, only one was repeated three times—**holiness**.

What the angels proclaim over and over to all in heaven is this: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty." If anyone wants to know God, he must know that **first and foremost, God is holy**.

1. Of all God's attributes, why do you think the Bible emphasizes **holiness** as the **most important** thing we need to know about God?

(Read verses 2-3) Notice the angelic creatures in the presence of the Lord. **Physical features reveal purpose**. Interestingly, Isaiah focused only on one feature of the seraphim—their **wings**. Two wings **covered their eyes**—revealing their **awesome knowledge** and **fear of who God is**.

Two wings **covered their feet**—revealing their **fear** and **knowledge of who they are** in relation to God. To cover one's feet, or lower body (Ezekiel 1:1), was to demonstrate **humility**. And two wings were **used to fly**—a picture of being **swift to serve** the Lord.

2. In what area do you need to grow most: Growing in the **knowledge of God**, being **humble** in how you **relate to others**, or being **swift to serve** others?

(Read verse 5) The prophet Isaiah was probably the most righteous man alive at his time. Yet, when he saw the Lord, he feared for his life. Why? In the light of God's holy presence, Isaiah could finally see the awfulness of **his own sinfulness**, which was **previously hidden to him**.

Only **as the Lord came near** to him did Isaiah become truly aware of his **hidden sinfulness**. Similarly, the closer we grow in our faith and knowledge of the Lord, the more we realize our own sinfulness and the more we are troubled by behavior that previously never troubled us much before.

3. How has **growing in your faith** revealed **sins** in you that had **not troubled you previously**?

(Read verses 6-8) Isaiah was terrified being in the presence of a holy God. Isaiah was also shocked to realize his own sinfulness. He despaired for his own life and cried out for rescue, "**Woe is me...I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips...**" If this passage ended here with the revelation of **God's awesome holiness** and man's sinfulness, life indeed would be fearful.

However, notice what else was amazing—**God's swift mercy and love**. As Isaiah cried out in desperation, God immediately sent an angel, not to walk to Isaiah, as angels have feet (v.2), but to fly to Isaiah's rescue. When Isaiah witnessed **God's holiness** and experienced **God's love**, no wonder he surrendered to God's service, proclaiming, "Here am I. Send me!"

4. Describe what **love** looks like **without holiness**, or what **holiness** looks like **without love**.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)