

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

Isaiah 6 Guide

Introduction:

This weekend Pastor J.D. walked us through the entire book of Isaiah. However, it's going to take us two weeks in small group time to do the same - our pastor is awesome! If Pastor J.D.'s sermon was a picture of a mountain, these two small group guides are a zoomed in view of two beautiful peaks on it.

In chapter six Isaiah receives a vision directly from God. This vision gives us one of the clearest pictures in the entire Bible of the visible glory of God. More than being excited or overwhelmed at God's beauty, Isaiah recognizes God's holiness and righteousness God and his own sinfulness.

This Week's Main Focus:

A clear view of the holiness of God changes everything.

We see the nature of God's character revealed. When Isaiah recognizes and confesses his sin, God offers two very distinct things. The first is atonement. God offers purification and a restored relationship. This one action is just a small representation of how God has dealt with humanity throughout history. He seeks us out and saves us even in our sinful state. Second, God allows Isaiah to become part of what he is doing in the world. God gives Isaiah a divine message that Isaiah is expected to communicate to others.

It is God's second action that reveals how he communicates to humanity and what he expects of his church. God revealed himself through the words he gave to the prophets. While we name the books of the Bible after the prophets who spoke them, it is important to see that God himself is the source of this message. God is the one who purified the lips of Isaiah. God is the one who sent him to the people. God is the one who gave him the message. This message that God gives Isaiah looks into the future and outlines his plan for his chosen people. There will be judgment for sin, but God will sustain those who are faithful to him. The earthly kingdom will be conquered temporarily, but God will send a messiah to restore the heavenly kingdom here on Earth.

Every believer can relate to this moment in Isaiah's life: God sought us out and purified us. God offered us a chance to be part of his work. Just like Isaiah, we should be people who look to God and say "Here I am, send me!" As we study this passage and the rest of the prophets throughout the summer, we must remember that their words are the way God has chosen to spread his message to the nations, and Jesus himself gave the same mission to the church.

Sermon Response Question:

1) Pastor J.D. read from the Jesus Storybook Bible to show us the book of Isaiah as a love letter from God. How does reading the Bible as a love letter from God influence the way you read the words of Old Testament Prophets?

Bible Study Questions: Read Isaiah 6:1-13

2) List how Isaiah describes God in verses 1-3 and himself in verses 4-5. Then, contrast his perspective on each.

3) List all of the actions in verses 6-12; include who is making each of these actions.

4) What three reasons did Isaiah give for saying, "Woe is me! For I am lost (or undone)"? In what ways are we like Isaiah in each of these three ways?

5) Read Matthew 13:10-16. How does Isaiah's prophecy relate to the ministry of Jesus? What does this teach us about how we receive God's message?

Group Applications Questions:

6) Isaiah's confession of sin was the first step in his becoming a spokesman for God. Why does confessing our sinfulness honor the Lord? How has observing someone else confess sin helped you in confessing and repenting from sin?

7) In verses 8 and 9 God commissions Isaiah with a specific message. What message have we been commissioned with? (Come up with chapter and verse not just a general description.) What are some ways we can spread this message in our everyday lives? (Be specific to what you do during your average week.)

Prayer: Read Psalm 119:73-80

- Lord, please move our hearts to long for your salvation for ourselves, our families and _____ (someone you are praying to come to faith).
- Father, give us patience and trust as we endure in the world.
- Spirit, remind us of your commandments.
- Jesus, thank you for making us blameless before God through salvation in your name.