

Discussion Starter: What are some reasons that people go to church or church-related activities like this small group? Why do you go to church and/or church-related activities?

Key Passage: **Isaiah 6:1-8**

What imagery/picture stands out most to you from these verses?

Prayer: Read **Revelation 4** aloud to your group as they close their eyes – it is a further description of the heavenly throne of God. Take 2-5 minutes of silence (depending on what you think your group can handle). Have everyone pray silently while picturing God as He is described in these passages.

Discussion Questions:

God presented this vision of worship to Isaiah “in the year King Uzziah died.” Describe a time in your life when your experience of tragedy or hardship impacted your worship in a positive way.

In a negative evaluation of its impact, Karl Marx said, “Religion is the opium of the masses.” What is he trying to criticize about your response to the previous question (*you are simply using worship as an escape mechanism from reality*)? How would you respond to his criticism (*example: if God is real and part of your life, having His help through the difficulty is not pretending just to make yourself feel better – it is the valid solution to your pain*)?

Who is the focal point of the Isaiah 6 passage as a whole (*God*)? In your experience with churches and in your growth as a Christian, what things, people, or experiences have you seen placed as the focal point of the church’s worship instead of God (*entertainment, feeling uplifted or fed, showing off personal giftedness, etc.*)? The next time that you are worshipping God and realize that you are mentally going down one of these side paths, what reminder can you set in place now that will help you when you get into that moment?

What is Isaiah’s immediate/initial reaction to seeing God in His glory (*recognition of his own sin*)? Describe a time when your worship has led you to a similar response. What do you think would come out of your mouth the moment that you saw God – what would be the first words you would say?

Read verses 6-7 again. While Isaiah responded to God’s holiness by realizing the huge problem of his own sin, how did God respond to Isaiah’s sin? Read **Romans 5:8** and **1 Peter 3:18**. How do the angel and the burning coal point us as Christians to what Jesus did on the cross for us?

According to verse 8, what was Isaiah’s response to experiencing worship in light of God’s holiness and of God’s act of delivering him from sin? How can you adopt the mindset of being ready for God to send you as a result of our time together tonight?