

WARM-UP

- Describe one sight or experience that took your breath away.
- Tell us about a time you had difficulty admitting that you had done something wrong. What happened?
- What mattered to you most when you were a child? What do you value now, and how have your values changed?

WORD *⁶For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. ⁷Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots. ⁸Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made. **ISAIAH 2:6-8***

(Read also **ISAIAH 2:18-21**.)

Through Isaiah, God declared He would radically expose where His people were and their blatant abandonment of Him. He did not do this because of a selfish or possessive jealousy; on the contrary, He is jealous for His people because He wants the best for them. He desired the Israelites to understand that the things they prioritized and valued were empty. Instead of experiencing the life that they could have in God, they trusted in foreign idols, imported military support, magicians, and charms—things that were substitutes for God in their lives, that took their trust, time, energy, and resources. In response to this, God declared that He would take away the things His people trusted in to save them, to reveal that He was the only one they needed to look to. He would expose the idols

they trusted in to highlight who He was. Today, in contrast to other things we may put our trust in, we will look at who God is and who we can be in Him.

1 | God is uncreated.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

ISAIAH 40:28

Idols aren't necessarily carven images or statues. They can be anything that takes the place of God in our lives. For the Israelites, they trusted in foreign military power, silver and gold, and their leaders. Unlike other things we may put our trust in, God is the greatest. There is no one above Him or higher than Him. He is uncreated; He doesn't depend on others to exist. Because He is above all, He is the only one with the power and authority to bless us and provide for our every need. In God, we can be certain that He has the power over all things on earth. How can we respond to the truth that God has highest power and remains faithful to His covenant with us?

2 | God is eternal.

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

ISAIAH 57:15

With His great might and power, God can take away all man-made idols. Isaiah prophesied that *the idols shall utterly pass away* (Isaiah 2:18). Unlike earthly things that people put their

trust in, God *inhabits eternity*. He sees all: past, present, and future. This means that He is the only one who can truly guide us. It also means He will always be there. We can never go anywhere to hide from Him. In God, we can experience true guidance and His eternal presence. What is one earthly thing you used to put your trust in that is no longer present? How does this compare to God?

3 | God is majestic.

²⁰In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, ²¹to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.

ISAIAH 2:20-21

(Read also **ISAIAH 2:2-3, 5**.)

Isaiah painted a vivid picture of mankind cowering in the great splendor of the Lord. In light of His majesty and holiness, people would realize that everything they put their trust in is worth nothing. God is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14), and in His love He will strip away the things we trust in to show us what truly matters. Again, in spite of our shortcomings, He is faithful to the covenant He made with us and invites us to come and walk with Him in His light (Isaiah 2:5). This is where we can experience His power and guidance, His eternal presence, and His holy majesty. How has walking in the light of the Lord been different for you? How has it changed your life and revealed things about you?

APPLICATION

- How can you respond to God's great passion to love you and draw you closer to Himself? How will knowing His radical love for you change the way you live?
- Has God revealed to you some idols you may be holding on to? What are you willing to do about it today? How can you declare your trust and submission to God?
- What are some lessons you feel that God is showing you, and how will this affect your life?

PRAYER

- Thank God for making a stark contrast between the things we put our trust in and Himself. Pray that you will remember daily that God alone is worthy of our trust.
- Ask God for His grace and strength to turn away from any idols in your life. Pray that He will always take first place in your heart.
- Thank God for His covenant relationship with His people. Pray to continually grow in your relationship with Him and declare His truth to others.



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