

WARM-UP

- What is the farthest you've been from home?
- Tell us about one thing you repeatedly heard from your parents or guardians growing up.
- What is one house chore you are the "boss" of at home?

WORD *¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"* **ISAIAH 6:1-3**

(Read also **ISAIAH 6:4-8**.)

Isaiah's vision of God shows His holiness—His purity, sinlessness, and separateness from His fallen creation. God is so holy that the seraphim, heavenly creatures, covered their faces in His presence. They called to each other, "Holy, holy, holy." This declaration signifies the otherness of God. He is nothing like us; He is far above and beyond us. Seeing ourselves starkly in the light of this holiness should cause us to bow down in worship. Isaiah, upon witnessing the holiness of God, had two responses.

1 | Isaiah saw his sinfulness and lack of holiness.

*⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." **ISAIAH 6:5-7***

In the presence of God and the heavenly creatures declaring God's holiness, Isaiah saw without doubt his sinfulness; not just his own, but the utter sinfulness of all his people. He realized that he was in the presence of a holy God and knew that because of his sin, he was undone. He could not live, having seen the holiest of holies. In light of the holiness of God, we too can see how small, dirty, and despicable we are. But God extended mercy to Isaiah by cleansing him and taking away his sin—and He did this for us as well. When did you realize the holiness of God and your sinfulness? How did your mindset and lifestyle change because of this?

2 | Isaiah responded to God's commission.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." ISAIAH 6:8

Isaiah's second response upon beholding the holiness of God was to eagerly and obediently respond to His commission. He had recognized his sinfulness, and God—holy above all—had cleansed him of his sin. Isaiah responded with willingness to the command God then gave him. What is our response when we behold the holiness of God and see His love and mercy in His cleansing of our sin? How are you responding to God's commission?

APPLICATION

- What things can you do daily to be reminded of God's holiness and majesty? How will this help your perspective of life?
- What things can you do daily to be reminded that God has restored and cleansed you of sin? How can you now live in light of this?
- In the same way that Isaiah responded to God's call, what is your response to Jesus' commission to His disciples in Matthew 28:19–20?

