

# SMALL GROUP LESSON: THE HOLINESS OF GOD

*The Real God, Part 3*

## Scripture: Isaiah 6:1–8

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

<sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

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## DISCUSSION STARTERS

Read through the questions below and pick the ones that would work best for your group. Chances are, you won't need to work through all of them! Ask the questions in your own words—don't feel that you need to read them "as is." And feel free to ask your own questions! Keep the overall objective in mind so that no matter what "path" your conversation takes, you end up driving home the objective.

## OBJECTIVE

To help your students understand that God's holiness means He is set apart from everyone and everything.

### 1. WARM UP

- What comes into your mind when you hear the word holiness? Is the impression positive or negative? What do you think people outside of the church think about when they hear the word holiness?
- Based the message, what's your definition of God's holiness?

### 2. SET UP THE PASSAGE

"This week, we are looking at a passage from the book of Isaiah. God used prophets like Isaiah to teach, encourage, and warn the Israelites to continue in their worship of God. Holiness is the characteristic of God that divides Him from everyone and everything. God is different, distinct, and unique from everything in the universe. In our passage for today, we get a rare look into heaven to see God's awesome holiness."

### 3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS (focus on scripture)

- Read the passage out loud (consider having a different student read it a second time).
- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Did you find anything confusing or difficult to understand?
- Without looking at the passage, retell this event in your own words. Does anyone else have something to add?
- Isaiah said that God was "high and exalted." What does that mean? What are some things in our world that people consider to be high and exalted?
- In the Bible, seraphim are the angels that appear around God. In your opinion, why do you think their wings were covering their feet and faces?
- In your opinion, what is the connection between God's holiness and His glory?
- Based on what the angel does with the live coal, what did Isaiah mean when he said he had "unclean lips"?

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- What was Isaiah's response to the holiness of God? Why do you think he responded this way?

#### **4. APPLICATION QUESTIONS (focus on personal significance)**

- How should the holiness of God impact the way we think about God?
- Humility is often the response when we encounter something greater than us. When it comes to our relationship with God, why is humility important?
- To worship something is to love it so much that it shapes our thoughts, attitudes, and decisions. Worship isn't just a Christian activity, it's a human one, because everyone worships. In your opinion, what are some things other than God that people worship?
- Practically speaking, what does holiness look like in the life of a person who is following Jesus?
- How does a commitment to holiness impact our relationship with people who don't follow Jesus?
- How can a person pursue holiness without making others feel guilty for not being holy?
- Isaiah said to God, "Here I am, send me." This was his commitment to a life that honors God. How is God calling you to honor Him with your life?
- In the message, we had three responses to God's holiness. Which one was most challenging for you personally and why?

1. Increase your respect for God.
2. Say yes to personal holiness.
3. Say no to judging others.

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