



“The Faith Factor”
— Ctrl+Alt+Delete—
Small Group Plan

As a college student I heard Jim Woodroof say,

If you compare yourself to people, you will either feel superior or inferior, and neither is true. But if you compare yourself to God, you will just feel humble.

The prophet Isaiah stood in God’s presence and felt completely humble, and God took Isaiah’s humility and turned it into ministry. God said to Isaiah:

*Forget about what’s happened;
don’t keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present.
I’m about to do something brand-new.*
-- Isaiah 43:18-19 (The Message)

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- How do you fill in the blank?

In 2011, I want to see a change for the better with ...

- What will be your first step?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹ *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.* ² *Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.* ³ *And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”* ⁴ *At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.* ⁵ *“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.”*

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ 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!”

**ACCEPT THE TRUTH
ABOUT YOUR HURT**

Verse 1

“... King Uzziah died ...”

- If King Uzziah represents stability to Judah, what does his death mean?
- What kind of tragedy has left you feeling afraid, shaken, or confused?

**ACCEPT THE TRUTH
ABOUT YOUR GOD**

Verse 1

“... I saw the Lord ...”

- Why does God choose this time to reveal himself to Isaiah?
- Imagine together what it would be like to experience, as Isaiah did, the awesome display of the presence of God.

**ACCEPT THE TRUTH
ABOUT YOUR SIN**

Verse 5

“... I am a sinful man ...”

- What made Isaiah’s failure so completely clear to him?
- Why is facing bad news usually the first step towards finding good news?

**ACCEPT THE TRUTH
ABOUT YOUR FREEDOM FROM PAST FAILURES**

Verse 7

“... your guilt is removed...”

- What is the significance of Isaiah’s lips being touched by the burning coal?
- What keeps some people from accepting God’s forgiveness?
- How does it feel to know you are 100% forgiven?

**ACCEPT THE FUTURE
GOD HAS FOR YOU**

Verse 8

“... Here I am. Send me...”

- What caused Isaiah to move from disqualifying himself to volunteering for service?
- Why does God use grace and forgiveness to frame His call to action?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How is your experience with God like Isaiah's: Awestruck? Guilt-ridden? Cleansed?
- Which of God's attributes most impresses you? Why?
- Do you think that most Christians feel 100% forgiven? Explain.
- Other than the fuel of grace and gratitude, what inferior fuels are sometimes used to motivate service and ministry? Why are they inferior?
- Discuss why gratitude for God's mercy and grace is an inexhaustible source of spiritual energy?
- Close by thanking God for the new year He has placed in our hands. Ask for His help to fully use the opportunities we will encounter as we move through 2011.