



“Taking The “I” Out of Worship”

Isaiah 6

Small Group Plan

A man can no more diminish God’s glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word ‘darkness’ on the walls of this cell.

— C. S. Lewis

We are often so caught up in our activities that we tend to worship our work, work at our play and play at our worship.

— Charles Swindoll

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What is your earliest concept of worship?
- How did it change over time?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— GOD IS THE CENTER —

Isaiah 6:1

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.*

- Describe, in your own words, what Isaiah saw. Be as vivid as possible.
- What is Isaiah’s purpose in describing God “on a throne”?
- Why is meeting God in worship the beginning of life, ministry, relationships and every use of our time and energy?

— GOD IS WORTHY —

Isaiah 6:2-5

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.”*

- *“Derived from a verb that means ‘to burn,’ the seraphim (the Hebrew form is plural) were agents of cleansing; here they are angelic agents.” — Charles Ryrie, Ph.D.*
- Why do you think the seraphs cover their faces and feet in the Lord’s presence?
- What is the meaning of the seraphs’ message and why were they calling “to only another” (v. 3)?
- What are “unclean lips” and why did Isaiah immediately and completely feel that he was unclean?

— GOD IS ACTIVE —

Isaiah 6:6-7

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.”

- Why did God answer Isaiah’s cry with forgiveness?
- What does this tell us about God’s constant character throughout all of time?
- How does it go against God’s nature to leave a person in their own guilt and shame?
- Why must God’s messengers have clean lips?

— GOD IS EMPOWERING MOTIVATING —

Isaiah 6:8

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!”

- What difference do you see in Isaiah before and after God’s cleansing?
- Describe the releasing power of confession — “Woe is me.”
- Describe the motivating power of forgiveness — “Here and I.”
- After feeling unworthy and undone, why does Isaiah feel useful and helpful to God?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- When have you been confronted with the amazing spectacle of God’s incredible holiness? Where were you and what was happening?
- How did this experience leave you feeling about yourself?
- What was the first thing you wanted to do? Why?
- How do “unclean lips” show themselves today?
- Where does God want to “send” you? How can worship prepare you for that mission and ministry?
- Close by asking God to cleanse our lips with the coal of His presence and forgiveness.