

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Our sovereign Lord desires to prepare us for service so that we can fulfill the Great Commission.

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read about how God judges and comforts Israel.

AS YOU READ...

...Think about who in your life you can share the things you're reading with.

CONNECT**(10 min.)**

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **When were you last called into the office by your boss or someone in a high level of authority? What was it for and how did that affect you?**
2. **What volunteer ministries have you been involved with? How were you recruited?**

EXPLORE**(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we will discuss Isaiah's cleansing and call."

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Read Isaiah 6:1-4. Imagine you are Isaiah. What do you tell a friend about what you saw, heard, felt and smelled in verses 1-4? What questions about God's nature and purpose does this encounter raise for you?**
5. **Read Isaiah 6:5-8. What makes Isaiah despair for his life and confess his sin in verse 5? Animals were burned on the altar as a substitute for the death of the sinner. What do you think is the significance of Isaiah's lips being touched with a coal from this altar?**
6. **Summarize the three basic steps that were taken in verses 5 through 8. Why do you think that we, like Isaiah, need to walk through these steps before we are sent?**
7. **Which of these 3 steps are you currently on: Are you awestruck and guilt-ridden? Is God cleansing you and showing you your worth as a believer? Are you willing and asking God to send you to serve anywhere and anytime?**

TRANSFORM**(10 min.)**

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

8. **How did what we talked about today impact you emotionally? How will it impact your behavior this week and in weeks to come?**

This Week's Study Notes:

Scripture Notes

Isaiah 6:2 *Seraphim*. These angels are mentioned by name only here in the Bible. Their name comes from a Hebrew word meaning "burn," possibly speaking of God's purity (v. 6; Rev. 4:6-9).

Isaiah 6:3 *Holy, holy, holy*. Repeating a word three times in Hebrew means it is supremely important. God's holiness is indescribably perfect and transcendent. God is completely above us and different from us, and yet in His mercy He reaches us and cares for us.

Isaiah 6:4 *my eyes have seen the King*. Isaiah expresses concern because whoever sees God is expected to die, since humans are incapable of surviving the sight of God's majesty and glory. In the light of God's perfect holiness, Isaiah's sinful humanness stands in stark contrast.

Isaiah 6:6 *glowing coal*. The coals were kept burning on the altar outside of the temple with the fire God started in Leviticus 9:24. Isaiah's sin needed to be burned away by God's fire. This altar was where sacrifices were made to cleanse the people's sins.

Isaiah 6:7 *He touched my mouth*. God touches Isaiah's mouth to purify it in order to communicate His Word.

Isaiah 6:8 *Who will go for Us?* The plural could refer to God speaking on behalf of Himself and His angelic host, referring to Himself in the plural of majesty, or alluding to the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this case, Isaiah the prophet is made part of the divine decision.

Here I am. Like Abraham, Moses, and Samuel, Isaiah answers as a servant when God calls him by name. They all were willing to be available; to be whatever God wanted them to be

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

* Scripture Notes adapted from and used by permission of Serendipity House Publishing, 1 LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee

