

## Summary

One encounter with the King of Glory changes everything as it did for Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-8. In his vision of God, Isaiah experiences the mercy of God after understanding his own uncleanness in comparison with God's holiness. A coal taken from the altar cleanses Isaiah's unclean lips and symbolizes God's solution for the eternal tension between God's holiness and humans' uncleanness. From this point on, Isaiah calls God "The Holy One of Israel" twenty-six times, compared with only six other Old Testament uses.<sup>1</sup> Clearly, Isaiah had a life-altering, call-confirming encounter with the King of Glory...and we can too.

## Read Isaiah 6:1-8

*1 In 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. 2 Above 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. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And 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!" 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." 8 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."*

## Getting to Know Each Other

1. Can you remember a time that you were close to a natural phenomenon, such as a tornado or hurricane, and you were afraid but yet at the same time strangely drawn to its utter power?

## Getting into the Bible

2. Consider Isaiah 6:1-8.
  - Make observations about Isaiah's vision of God (focus on verses 1-5). Answer questions like, but not limited to, the following:
    - Who was Uzziah and why might it be important that Isaiah's vision happened in the year of his death (cf. 2 Chronicles 26:4-5; 16-21)?
    - Where is God pictured?
    - Who is with God? What are they saying? Why?
  - What is Isaiah's response to seeing God?

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<sup>1</sup> See J. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah Chapters 1-39* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986) p. 180.

- How does God act toward Isaiah in the midst of his self despair?

***Application***

3. Have you ever had an encounter with God like Isaiah's? How did it change you?  
If not, ask for an encounter with God like Isaiah's.
4. How do encounters like Isaiah's relate to missions (i.e. the mission of Christ in the world)?