
Life Group Guide

"In the Year of Mourning: Seeing God in the Midst of Loss"

Based on Isaiah 6:1

OVERVIEW

This guide is designed to help your group process and apply the key themes from this sermon. The central message is that God does not wait for us to finish grieving before He reveals Himself to us. Like Isaiah, we are often met by God in the very room of our mourning, not after we have walked out of it.

BEFORE YOU MEET

Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and reflect on the following question on your own before gathering with your group:

What season of loss, disappointment, or unexpected change has most shaped the way you see God today?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Mourning is not a doorway to seeing God — it can be the very room where He meets you.** Isaiah did not see the Lord after his grief over Uzziah had passed. He saw the Lord while he was still in it. God does not require us to have it together before He reveals Himself.
- 2. Good things can blind us to the greatness of God.** Uzziah's reign was largely prosperous and successful. Yet Isaiah's comfort in that prosperity may have dulled his spiritual perception. What is good in our lives can quietly become what we trust in most.
- 3. Disappointment, loss, and upheaval are often the conditions God uses to open our eyes.** This pattern runs throughout Scripture — Habakkuk, the disciples on the Emmaus Road, and the apostle Paul all experienced a shattering of their expectations before they saw God more clearly.

4. Seeing Jesus clearly leads to being sent. The pattern throughout the Bible is consistent: behold, then be sent. Isaiah saw the Lord and said, "Here am I, send me." The disciples saw the risen Christ and were commissioned. Paul encountered Jesus and was redirected entirely. Seeing produces sending.

5. We can choose to change because we see the light rather than waiting to feel the heat. God gives light before He brings heat. The invitation is to respond to what we already see rather than waiting for circumstances to force our hand.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

1. When you hear the phrase "God met me in the middle of it," what comes to mind from your own life or from someone you know?
 2. Is there a season in your life that you have named by a loss or a disappointment, the way Isaiah named his year by the death of Uzziah? What was that season like?
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Going Deeper

3. The sermon made the point that mourning and grief were not a doorway Isaiah passed through on his way to seeing God — they were the room he was standing in when he saw the Lord. How does that reframe the way you think about difficult seasons? Does it bring you comfort, challenge you, or both?
4. King Uzziah was described in three ways that represent common human experiences:
 - The loss of something good that you trusted in
 - Disappointment in something that started well but ended poorly
 - An unexpected loss that upheaved your entire world

Which of these three resonates most with a season you have walked through? How did that experience affect your relationship with God?

5. The disciples on the Emmaus Road in Luke 24 were so consumed by grief that they did not recognize Jesus walking alongside them. The sermon noted that feelings are a servant, not a master. How do you personally navigate the tension between honoring real emotions and not allowing them to completely obscure your view of God?
6. Habakkuk 1 records God saying to a grieving prophet, "Be utterly astounded, for I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told to you." Have you

ever experienced a moment where God surprised you in the middle of a hard season? What did that look like?

7. The sermon asked: *What good thing is blinding you to the magnificence of Jesus?* This is a personal and honest question. Without pressuring anyone to overshare, is your group willing to discuss what categories of life — work, family, recreation, comfort, success — can quietly move from being a gift to being a substitute for God?
8. Paul spent three days in darkness after encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus. The sermon described this as a kind of death — everything he had built his identity on had to be dismantled before he could be sent. Is there anything in your own life that God may be asking you to release so that you can more fully embrace what He has called you to?

Application and Reflection

9. The sermon offered this question as homework: *Where is God asking for your "here am I"?* Share with the group one specific area of your life where you sense God is asking for your full availability — your home, your workplace, your neighborhood, a relationship, your finances, or something else.
10. The closing prayer asked God to open eyes so that people would be launched into mission — whether that means their own household, their school, their workplace, or foreign shores. As a group, discuss: What would it look like for each of you to live as someone who has been sent right where you already are?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice this week:

Personal

- Set aside time this week to honestly answer the questions the sermon raised: What mindsets or distractions are dulling your perception of God? What good thing has quietly become a God thing? What present disappointment might actually be an invitation to see Jesus more clearly?

In Prayer

- Spend time this week praying through Psalm 22. Read it slowly and consider what it reveals about what Jesus endured and accomplished. Let that shape how you worship and pray.

In Community

- Reach out this week to someone in your life who is in a season of mourning or loss. You do not need to have answers. Simply be present with them, the way Jesus walked alongside the disciples on the Emmaus Road before He opened their eyes.

In Surrender

- Write down your own "here am I" — a specific, honest statement of availability to God in the area where you sense He is asking for it. Keep it somewhere visible as a reminder throughout the week.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by praying for one another in the specific areas that came up during discussion. If members of your group are in seasons of grief, loss, or disappointment, take time to pray for them by name, asking God to meet them in that very room the way He met Isaiah, the disciples, and Paul — not after the hard season was over, but right in the middle of it.

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up." — Isaiah 6:1