

Here I am: making ourselves available to God

Discussion guide

based on **Isaiah 6:1-10** (Linked to sermon of 27 September)

which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks



This was part of a series: Listening to God

Intro: Isaiah 6 marks the beginning of Isaiah's ministry. When he sees a vision of how awesome God is, Isaiah is stricken by his own inadequacies and failings. It is at this point of weakness and surrender that God can use him!

You might like to begin your session with "Here I am, Lord!"

<https://youtu.be/4t6mz8yoocY>

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up (Go deeper with God):

Begin with prayers of praise, thanking God that He loves and wants to meet with us.

Read the passage together again. Next read verses 1-4 a few times through. Close your eyes and try to picture the scene. Some artistic people in the group might like to try drawing their impression of God and the seraphim. The leader could bring along some images of God and heaven (google images is brilliant for this) to encourage discussion about how we picture God and heaven.

Is this how you imagine God on his throne? Share your own "vision" of God.

You might like to look at Revelation 1:12-20, Daniel 7:9-14 and Ezekiel 1 for other people's vision of God and his throne room – what do they have in common and what is different? Do they differ from your own image and if so, how?

In (Grow closer to each other):

Read Isaiah 6: 5-7. Isaiah's vision of God brings him to repentance. So often when we see God as He truly is, we recognise our own inadequacies. Has this been your experience? Share with the group.

Read Psalm 73 together. What changes occur in the psalmist's attitude to life and God in this psalm? Do you identify with the psalmist? If so, in what ways?

Spend some time in honest discussion about ways in which, like Ps 73:21, your soul is embittered. Pray prayers of confession together. James 5:16 encourages us to "confess our sins to each other and pray for one another". Praise God, that when we do this, He is gracious and forgives us (1 John 1:9) and washes us clean from sin, just as he did for Isaiah.

Out (Reach further with the good news):

Read Isaiah 6:8-10. Isaiah's response to his vision and cleansing, is to make himself available to God to be used as He chose. The message Isaiah is given is not an easy one.

Do you feel able to say to God, "Here I am, send me!"? If not, what are the obstacles for you and others? Be honest with each and pray for each other that God will give you the strength to obey his calling on you, whatever that might be.

Some of you may already have a sense of God's call but are finding it hard to obey. Pray that as you spend more time in God's presence, as you go "into the sanctuary of God" (Ps 73:17), that God will strengthen and equip you.

End with a few minutes silent listening to God. If God gives you a word or picture for others in the group, share it with them afterwards.

"This isn't a verse to pray thoughtlessly. Once you pray it, just as the Lord said to Isaiah in chapter 9, He'll say, "Go." It is one to say willingly and joyously. The use of "Here I am" reveals purpose. Isaiah was saying he was here on earth for a specific purpose and he wanted that purpose to be the Lord's. As he immediately followed it with "send me," he didn't wait to hear what the Lord would say but wrote a blank check to the Lord, a universal yes to God's plan for him." Molly Law