

June 4/23 – Leader’s Guide - Isaiah 6:1-8 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Read Isaiah 6:1-8.

1. Which do you find an easier concept: the transcendence (holiness, ‘otherness’) of God, or the immanence (presence, relatability) of God? Why?

Many people prefer to think of God as warm, friendly, and close; and dwelling on the holiness of God is uncomfortable. Is this the experience of your group? As you are comfortable, press into why this might be the case.

2. This passage is commonly used for Trinity Sunday. What are some reasons for that? Does it seem like a fair use of the passage? Why or why not?

Three “holy”s; the use of “us” in v 8; and NT writers referencing this passage in relation to Jesus and the Holy Spirit (eg John 12:37-41 and Acts 28:25).

3. Have you ever found yourself overwhelmed in the presence of God, or feeling anything else? As you are comfortable, share your experience.

Allow the group to dwell on experiences of God. Encourage them to think about what difference these experiences may have made in their lives.

4. Karen quoted author Drew Dyck in referring to God as “other”, “dangerous”, “alien”, “wild”. What do you think about these descriptions for God? Do you think they are accurate or fair? Why or why not? (Cf. Num 23:19)

We are not used to thinking of God this way! Allow the group to discuss and/or disagree freely, and to explore why this may be a threatening idea.

5. Karen pointed out an arc that appears in both Isaiah 6:1-8 and Ephesians 2:4-10. What is that arc? Can you think of other places it occurs in Scripture? How about in your own life?

God reveals himself in his holiness and majesty, which exposes our own brokenness/deadness/sinfulness, which invites confession & repentance & restoration, which equips us and encourages us to share the good news in word and deed.