

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

No Other Like Jesus, King Jesus, In Control, Majestic

## WELCOME

Do you enjoy looking at the mirror when you first get up in the morning? Why or why not?

## WORD

### ISAIAH 6

*(Read the entire chapter.)*

*In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

The focus of this study on characters in the Bible is for us to learn about God's amazing works in the lives of ordinary people like Isaiah who had their own stories of brokenness. How God was able to use them all despite their failures and disappointments serves as a real encouragement for us today.

The book of Isaiah is one of the most quoted books in the New Testament. It can be considered the most prophetic and most Christ-centered book in the Old Testament. Isaiah had the longest time span in terms of serving God as a prophet, from 740 BC to 680 BC, and he served under five kings. Through his life, we see how in God's economy, broken people can still be used for His greater glory. Behind all the awesome prophecies that Isaiah wrote about, there is an even better story of how God called him to His service.

The Japanese art form KINTSUGI, takes broken ceramics or pottery and pieces them together with gold paint so that when restored, they are transformed into a masterpiece. Our lives can be like so – as we submit to the Master Artist, God, who is able to make something beautiful out of our brokenness. This becomes only possible if we submit to Him.

Somebody who is not broken is proud, self-centered, self-sufficient, and self-willed. Brokenness is a painful process but necessary for blessedness. Jesus, in **Luke 9:23**, speaks of how anyone who desires to follow Him must first deny himself, be broken, and carry his cross (symbolic of death to self).

So, what was the process of brokenness in the life of Isaiah?

### 1. ENCOUNTER GOD

**Isaiah 6** tells of Isaiah's calling as a prophet; **v1** says, *"In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple."*

At a time when the usual reaction to news of a king's sudden death was to worry, be anxious, and panic, Isaiah was able to encounter God — His holiness and supremacy. This is in huge contrast to the king that Isaiah had previously served, King Uzziah. In **2 Chronicles 26**, we read about King Uzziah who started well as a king, but eventually became proud and drew further away from God. He was punished with leprosy and ended his reign in seclusion, being cast out due to the ailment that he had.

Isaiah, on the other hand, witnessed God's unspeakable holiness. He had seen visions of Him on the throne, and even saw mighty Seraphim flying around the throne proclaiming **"Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of Hosts!"**. This gave him a high view of who God truly is. Today we are so used to seeing God as something like "Santa Claus" or a "genie", some fairy tale being who is subject to our control and persuasive tendencies. To have the right view of God leading to brokenness, we need to encounter God the way Isaiah did and acknowledge His supremacy and His sovereignty over us.

### 2. EXPERIENCE HIS GRACE.

In **Isaiah 6:6-7**, Isaiah saw his own failures as he recognized who he was in light of who God is. In brokenness, he confessed his sinfulness— not heavy grievances or bloody murders –but that he has sinned with his "unclean lips". **James 3:2** tells us of the impossibility of controlling the tongue, for this small body part can start a fire that destroys lives.

In **Matthew 15:18-20**, Jesus says that the sin of the lips come from the evil that is in the heart. You see, every sin problem is a heart problem. As you see God and His holiness, it will be clearer that you and I will always fall short of His holiness and perfection. No wonder, Isaiah was

## WORD (cont'd)

able to write about God's great forgiveness; he was one who benefitted from it immensely.

In **Isaiah 1:18**, Isaiah writes about what God offers out of His graciousness: "***Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow***".

Isaiah, after encountering God's holiness and supremacy, began to see that he was unworthy of His attention. But Isaiah was forgiven of his sins, and the angel declared that he was indeed forgiven. **Colossians 1:13-14** tells us that God through Christ has rescued us from the "***dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (Christ)***". What Jesus Christ has done, paying the price for our sins, gives us the opportunity to stand in God's presence completely forgiven.

### 3. EMBRACE HIS VISION

It was only after Isaiah encountered God's supreme holiness, forgiveness and grace that he eventually received his calling from the Lord. In **Isaiah 6:8**, we see the Triune God searching for someone to send out, asking "**whom**

**shall I send and who will go for us?**". With his previous God encounter and experience, Isaiah stepped up and volunteered! "**Here I am, Send me!**"

This is the expected result of having a personal encounter with God and experiencing His amazing grace and forgiveness – you will ask Him to send you on His behalf! The Bible doesn't tell us that Isaiah's mistakes were overlooked, but because he was forgiven, his response was to step up into serving the Lord. Amazingly, Isaiah was given many visions of the coming Messiah (like **Isaiah 53:5-6**). He was instrumental even in giving King Hezekiah the victory over the invading mighty Assyrians. He served as God's prophet faithfully until the last day of his life. He saw God take the initiative of revealing who He was and extending forgiveness to Isaiah. This firsthand experience enabled the prophet to serve God with all that he had. We can be like Isaiah, broken and restored, as we experience the Extraordinary God who empowers ordinary people like us to be blessed and sent on a mission to be a blessing to so many others.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. If you encounter God's supremacy and holiness like how Isaiah did, what sin will be exposed in your own life? Is there any struggle you find hard to surrender to God? Are you willing to give up this sin or struggle as part of being broken before God? Why or why not?
2. What is your story of brokenness? What events in your life has God used to humble you? How has He restored you to usefulness for His mission?
3. Have you come to realize what God is calling you to do? Who are the people around you who need to hear more about Jesus through you?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that others around you will be able to encounter God in His holiness and supremacy. This week step up and volunteer to go for God in sharing with others about His offer of restoration for our broken lives through Jesus Christ.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends