



Discussion Guide Worship – Part 4 LEADER GUIDE

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We're made to worship! It's part of our design. But how we worship matters just as much as the fact that we do. In this series, we're exploring what it means to worship God on His terms instead of ours and rediscovering the wonder of approaching Him the way He invites us to. This series will reshape how you see every moment you spend in His presence.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?"
[Francis Chan]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
 - Isaiah encounters God in the midst of national and cultural mourning coupled with an impending military crisis. But he sees God—enthroned, exalted, transcendent, and majestic. He cannot even ask for the cleansing God provides through an angel with coal and tongs. But ultimately, he worships and is transformed. His worship reorients him toward service and ministry.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

What is your favorite way to worship God?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Let us see with our eyes, hear with our ears, understand with our hearts, and repent.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize this verse together by having each person read it aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together.*

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."
[Psalm 34:1, ESV]

BIG IDEA || **Leader Note** *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

Worship is not outcome-based, convenience-oriented, or protecting our comfort zone... it is from God, and it is God-driven.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Isaiah 6 in the ESV.

1. What is your ideal worship service? *Answers will vary. Maybe someone will choose a different order, a facet of worship they like most and would like to see more of. It might be inspiring for your own gatherings to incorporate some of these things, so be prepared to take notes!*
2. What view of God do we get in this chapter? *Looking closer at the reality of God, a lot of lesser things melt away. Not everyone gets a personal glimpse like Isaiah did, but we get to see through his experience. He is on the throne. His robe extends to fill the place. All around him see and cry "holy, holy, holy."*
3. What is your working view of God? If your life was the measure of your picture of God, what would your past week say that you believe about Him? *Be ready to go first on this one and give people time to think. Considering the past week, how big is He? Thank the Lord that His actual ability and greatness and lovingkindness and compassion are NOT contingent on how well we believe them in practice. But looking at that gap might show spaces for our faith to take root and have consequences in our lives.*
4. As the presence of God shakes the throne room, what has God's presence shaken in your life? What has it transformed? *Some things cannot stand before Him. If we get anywhere near Him, we will see the effect His presence has on us. We will walk differently through life. This shows up as a shaking (shaking loose what was formerly entrenched) and as a filling (and the whole place was filled with smoke.) What is shaken out in us, likewise, will be replaced—and it happens in that order for a reason. We do not simply fill the old house with smoke. We first get everything else out.*
5. Why would God change Isaiah before sending him? *Something important is in this verse, which is commonly cited and completely misused. God prepares Isaiah. He cleanses Isaiah. He directs Isaiah. He sends him to a specific people with a specific mission and a specific vision and a specific message. We cannot jump past all these other things and go straight to "just send me." Send me where? How? To do what? An un-aimed arrow sent into the sky is more likely to deal destruction than hit its mark. There is a process to going that we cannot circumvent, or we're more likely to do harm than good.*
6. Has God prepared you for a particular purpose or mission? Has He given you a vision of Himself and a message? *Answers will vary, but this is time for testimonies of what God has designed us to be, what role we function in. If people in your group are still figuring that out, pray over them that God will get them ready to function in their kingdom role.*
7. What message does God give Isaiah? How does that message sound? *Summarized: "You will hear, but you won't understand. That's a heart problem." This message is very bleak and difficult. When reading it, does anyone feel that message is for them—or do we immediately want to assume it's talking about someone else? That is very hard to receive, even though it's pointed and very simple. This arrow is shot straight for our hearts, but will we let it in?*
8. How long must Isaiah preach this message? *Until everything is devastated. That means most people won't want to hear what he has to say. Most people won't listen. God is not sending Isaiah to do something joyous and exciting, something that will cause mass repentance. He's sending him for*

the chance that a small few will actually be willing to change.

9. What is the word of hope at the end of the message? *"The holy seed is the stump." This is Christ. Christ is what is left after everything is razed. Christ is what the few who repent are holding onto instead of their old ways and connections.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

Then I said, *"How long, O Lord?"*

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How is God preparing you for your kingdom role? 2) How can you prepare to endure for however long it takes?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!

"Open our eyes, so we can see. Open our ears, so we can hear. Open our hearts, so we can feel. Awaken us from sleep so that we can rise and go about Your work in our homes, cities, and church."