Discussion Questions

*Below are a series of questions to help serve as discussion prompts for your group. Please do not feel the need to get through all of them. Instead, choose which ones you believe will serve your group best to help them engage the sermon text in a meaningful and practical way.*

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

1. This passage begins with Isaiah encountering God. Take some time to review vv. 1-4. What is communicated about God in the details of the text?

2. The holiness of God is defined as God’s uniqueness in contrast with His creation: He stands apart and above His creation in every sense. An important aspect of this is His moral excellence. This is the attribute that is mentioned more than any other in the Bible. We see it again and again, especially when God reveals Himself. When you think about God is holiness one of the main attributes that comes to mind? If not, why do you think that is?

3. When Isaiah encountered God’s holiness in this vision he was overwhelmed by it. Have there been moments in your life when you were overwhelmed by God’s holiness? Or as Pastor Gregg put it, what were some times in your life that God went from being a concept to being a reality for you?

4. If when and how God reveals Himself is something that God alone decides, is there any way for us to set the stage for an encounter with God’s holiness?

*Hint: If we follow the language of Scripture, we see that while God reveals, convicts, and saves, we are exhorted to seek, repent, and believe. If repentance and belief are a response to God’s revelation, our job is then to seek. While Calvinists and Arminians disagree about whether we can even seek God without God’s help, we all agree that we are commended to seek the Lord. What does it look like to seek God practically speaking?*

5. Why does Isaiah respond to his vision of God by recognizing his sinfulness? What does this teach us about what the source of true humility is?

*Possible follow up question: If a true knowledge of God should lead us to see our own sinfulness and our need for God, then it should lead us to humility. Why then do you sometimes find people that know the Bible very well are some the proudest people?*

6. Notice what Isaiah says in v. 5: “Woe is me! For I am lost.” When confronted with his sinfulness before God, Isaiah does not assume that God will just forgive him. He also doesn’t say that he will work on being better or make it up to God. Instead, he feels totally lost. In other words, he doesn’t think that God owes him forgiveness or that he can just improve himself. He recognizes that He is at the mercy of God. Where do you tend to fall between the three responses? Why?

 *It could be very interesting to explore the beliefs behind these responses. For example, why would a person believe that God owes him forgiveness? What are their beliefs about God? What about their beliefs about themselves? Then how does these measure up to what we learn from Scripture?*

7. When was the last time that you were broken before God because you saw your own sinfulness?

8. How do we honestly recognize our sinfulness before God without falling into hopelessness or depression? What brought Isaiah out of despair? (See vv. 6-7)

*This is why law without gospel just leads to despair, but gospel without law leads to ingratitude and irreverence.*

9. In v. 8 why do you think Isaiah is so quick to volunteer to go on God’s behalf? What then is the solution to our reluctance to serve God?