

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## The Holiness of God

Questions written by Mark Collins

March 28, 2008



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Small Group Announcement** - The Small group team is so excited to see and experience all the supernatural growth over the last four months. In fact, God has blessed us with one hundred new groups since the beginning of the 2008. Despite His goodness the demand for new small groups at the Rock is staggering. Last month we had over 1000 people who signed up wanting to be placed in a group in their area. One simple thing that you could do to help the team is to allow us to post your phone number on the group finder on the Rock's website. This will help people connect to you much easier and help them find a group more quickly.

Maybe it's been a while since you have updated your information with us. We understand that things change like phone numbers, locations where you're meeting, or new leaders in your group. Right now would be a perfect time to update your info, and let us know how everything is going. We'd love to serve you any way we can. To update your information call Danah at 619-764-5120 or email her at [danah.davis@therocksandiego.org](mailto:danah.davis@therocksandiego.org)

## MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

*As "small groupies," you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. If you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at [andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org](mailto:andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org). May God work through your prayers mightily!*

**Reaching the Lost:** Pray that all the small groups continue to develop relationships with those who are far from God, and invite them to their small groups.

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** Pray that all of our Small Groups take time to follow up on all the new people trying to get into small groups.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** Pray that our current leaders continue to give their ministry away and develop future leaders to reach their full potential in Jesus.

**Small Group Staff:** Pray that God gives us the favor and wisdom to rebuild the Small Group team. Ask Him to order our steps in every decision we make.

**The Rock Body:** Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in accountability to one another.

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – THE HOLINESS OF GOD

I can't fully comprehend what it means to enter the throne room of God. I don't think that Isaiah before his great encounter with God, and his calling to God's to become God's prophet that he could comprehend it either. One thing's for sure that the prophets in the OT were lonely men. These servants served as prosecuting attorneys of sorts, appointed by the Supreme Judge of heaven, to bring suit against His people. The record of these prophet's lives reads like a history of the martyrs. The prophet's curse was solitude; his home was often a cave. Most were from humble origins: peasants, shepherds or farmers. Isaiah was different, he was from nobility; recognized as a statesman, having access to the royal court of his day.

The record of Isaiah's call is perhaps one of the most dramatic in the entire Bible. We are told (in Isa. 6:1-8) it came to pass that in the year that King Uzziah died (8<sup>th</sup> century in Israel). Isaiah was transported into very throne room of the Most High. King Uzziah was one of the greatest monarchs in Israel's history reigning 52 years, building up Jerusalem to greater prominence than even King David. He built cisterns, improved the city's defenses and even enlarged Israel's army to record numbers. Yet, the story of Uzziah ended on a sad note. In his final years Uzziah suffered from pride and decided to play God. He entered the temple and arrogantly demanded to play the role of a priest. In response to his sin, God immediately struck him with leprosy. The bible tells us (2 Chronicles 26:21) that for the rest of his days Uzziah lived in a separate house—being cut off from the house of the Lord, until his death.

Just like in our day, Isaiah was thrust into a time of national unrest and instability. Isaiah went to the temple, presumably looking for some consolation for his personal grief and to pray for his nation. He got more than he bargained for:

*In the year the King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his robe filled the temple (Isaiah 6:1).*

The king was dead. But when Isaiah entered the temple he saw another king, the Ultimate King, the One who sat forever on the throne of Judah. He saw the Lord. God is still calling His people into the throne room. He desires that all of His children meet with Him there. Yet if we desire to enter into the Holy of Holies, there's still a personal cost. Intimacy with God requires several prerequisites such as dying to self and removing any footholds that the enemy may still have in our lives. Just like in Isaiah's time, there's a lot at stake. The fate of our nation may hang in the balance. Right now I'm praying that your group takes the necessary steps to touch the “hem of God's robe” in prayer tonight.

### ***Getting Started***

Tonight, begin with a time of praise and worship. This can be accomplished by listening quietly to some pre-recorded praise music. If someone has the ability to play an instrument that would be even better. Create an awareness of His presence in your midst by welcoming Him into your meeting. Then ask someone to read Hebrews 4:16 aloud.

After a time of intimacy ask the group this question: Has there ever been a time when God showed Himself in a mighty way when you least expected it? What was that like?

### ***Digging Deeper:***

Just like our calling to become one of God’s children a prophet of Israel had to be selected—chosen directly from God not men. One could not apply for the job. And this call was sovereign; it couldn’t be refused. Some sought to resign (Jeremiah) but God refused to accept these resignations. Therefore, this job of a prophet was for life. There was no quitting or retiring with a pension.

1. Read Isaiah 6:1-8. What do you think that Isaiah was thinking and feeling at this time?
  - a. Look at Isaiah 6:1. What do you think is the significance of God’s robe filling the temple? (Hint: Think of other people whose garments had long trains, like Princess Diana’s wedding Dress). What could a long train represent?
  - b. Look at Isaiah 6:2. Why do you think these angels covered their faces? What do you think caused these angels to be in flames? Did Isaiah ever describe God’s physical appearance? Do you think that’s significant?
2. The angels cried out holy, holy, holy what does the word holy mean? What does it look like to be personally holy?
  - a. Look at 6:5. What was Isaiah’s reaction to the scene? What were the two areas that Isaiah mentioned that felt especially sinful?
  - b. Why do you think he felt especially burdened by these (see: James 3:6-12)
3. Read Isaiah 6:6.
  - a. Do you think that the method of God’s forgiveness was painful? Why do you think God chose this method to pardon Isaiah’s sins?
4. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. What does it mean to give the devil a foothold?
5. What are some ways in which we give the devil a room or place in our lives that will limit our intimacy and hinder us from entering God’s throne room?
6. Read Hebrews 9:23-28. How has Jesus changed things that we may enter into his throne room boldly?

### ***Bringing it Home***

Read Isaiah 6:8. This is where Isaiah’s vision takes on a whole new dimension. Up to this point the prophet had seen the glory of God; he had heard the song of the angels; he had felt the burning coal on his lips. Now for the first time Isaiah heard the voice of God. Ironically, the original language suggests that this voice was speaking all the time, but Isaiah couldn’t hear it until God forgave his sin. In a voice like the sound of many waters God echoed the piercing question: “Whom shall I send, Who will go for Us?” There’s a pattern here, over and over in Scripture. God appears, man quakes in terror, God forgives and heals, then God sends.

7. Isaiah knew what it was like to feel fragile because of his sin. What voices (sins) are competing with God’s voice in your life right now? Break up into prayer partners and spend some time in prayer.
8. How is God sending you personally? What will be your response?