

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



Study Guide

Week #1

“Mark Up Isaiah”

Isaiah 6:1-8

Bruce Humphrey

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www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-isaiah/

Next Week: *“Control vs. Influence”*

Isaiah 12:14-15

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Isaiah 6:1-8

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹ *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

⁴ *At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

⁵ *“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”*

⁶ *Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”*

⁸ *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

Notes:

James 5:13-16

¹³ *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make them well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Notes:

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Isaiah 6:1-8

Discussion Guide

Scripture

1. In reading the Isaiah scripture, how does Isaiah approach God?
2. Does Isaiah’s behavior please God? Explain why, or why not.
3. What is God’s response to Isaiah’s confession?
4. Why was Isaiah’s purification important?

“Prophet” – one who utters divinely inspired revelations. (Merriam-Webster.com)

5. How did that purification prepare him for his prophetic ministry?
6. What kind of a relationship with God would be required of a prophet?
7. Why did God *ask*, “Whom shall I send?” as opposed to just *telling* Isaiah to do it?
8. What does this say about what kind of a relationship God wants with you?
9. What does James say happens when we confess our sins to each other?
10. Why is healing so important?
11. How might healing transform your life? Your community?

Sermon

“Each of us, like Isaiah, can relate to personal, private confession of sin. We agree with his need to privately confess his sins to the holy, pure, perfect God. But then comes the part that pushes our understanding. Why does Isaiah need to confess other people’s sins?” Bruce Humphrey

1. Why is confession required by God? What does it do to the person confessing? To the person listening?
2. What was Isaiah trying to heal in his community?
3. What do you think needs healing in your own community?
4. How might you go about confessing your community’s sins?
5. Do you think confessing for your community will “make a difference?” Why?

Prayer

Personal: Find a quiet place to talk to God. Confess, either out loud or in silence. Remain quiet and listen for God’s response.

Group: Read aloud the scripture from James included in this lesson. If your group feels comfortable, share your prayer concerns with each other. If not, allow time for each member to pray silently, recognizing the power of God’s presence, and His promise of healing, with or without spoken words.

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