

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
"SEND ME" = ISAIAH 6:1-8
SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPEN

In our sermon series, we are considering how we might orient our personal and communal prayers in such a way that both our church and our city would be awakened to and transformed by the love of Jesus.

1. What have you noticed about your own engagement with prayer over the past few weeks? Is there a focus or theme to your prayers now that was absent or lacking in the last season?
2. What have you experienced—however small or seemingly insignificant—as a result of prayer recently?

DISCUSS

READ ISAIAH 6:1-8.

The prophet Isaiah was commissioned to ministry in time of spiritual and cultural upheaval in Israel. Both the king Uzziah and the people had transgressed boundaries that God had established in his law. Isaiah was in need of consolation when he received this vision of the Lord ruling from heaven with the “train of his robe” filling the temple on earth. Transformed by an experience of God’s glory and grace, Isaiah willingly offered himself to be sent for God’s purposes.

3. In encountering the Lord, what does Isaiah recognize about God and what does he recognize about himself?
4. In this week’s sermon, Pastor Curtis emphasized that we are changed before we are commissioned. What happens to our sharing of God’s grace when we are not personally experiencing that grace?
5. What surfaced in your heart and mind as you heard Pastor Curtis speak about being “enthralled with God”? Without trying to manufacture emotion and excitement, how might you cultivate a posture of curiosity towards our Creator & Redeemer?
6. What did you hear in this week’s sermon that challenged or comforted you in thinking about your role and responsibility in sharing the gospel with others? More specifically, what can we learn from the example of Isaiah and Pastor Curtis’s ministry reflections on dealing with difficult callings and even rejection?
7. In *The Deeply Formed Life*, Rich Villodas identifies four practices that shape a missional presence in the world that reflects the way of Jesus: *hospitality, justice, vocation, and evangelism*.
 - a. Though we are all prone to emphasize one or some of these practices over others, what does the church reveal about God when these are held together?
 - b. Is there a specific practice you sense the Spirit calling you to lean into in this next season? What would be a first step in engaging that aspect of mission?

PRAY

Close your time praying that God would move in us so that we would be able to move towards others freely and joyful. If you find your delight in the Lord and the gospel waning or absent, continue praying for God to draw near, to *revive* you and *bless* you. If the Spirit spoke to you in a specific way through the preaching of God’s word or this conversation, acknowledge Him and ask for the strength to respond.