

# READING PLAN: ISAIAH

## Day One

*Read Isaiah 6:1-8*

Most days I'm thinking about the next thing - my next meal, my next year of school, my next (fill-in-the-blank). Rarely do I catch myself thinking about stuff in the past. Usually, if I am thinking about stuff in the past, I'm regretting it.

Since we tend to avoid looking back, we can be pretty bad at reflecting. My dad used to tell me after I had gotten in trouble that I needed to sit in my room and think about what I had or had not done. He was telling me to "reflect" - to think seriously about something I'd done and try to learn from it.

Isaiah was in a position to reflect on the holiness of God. As he stood in awe of God, he took in everything the experience was throwing at him. He really had a moment to take in all that God was and experience His presence.

We would do well to take time in our day just to reflect on the goodness and holiness of God.

Questions:

1. When you have downtime, what do you typically use to fill that time?
2. Why is it so hard for us to focus attention on God?
3. What can we learn about God when we take the time to think about Him? What can we learn about ourselves?

## Day Two

*Read Isaiah 6:1-8*

One of my favorite things to think about in my relationship with God is eternity and heaven. I think many people limit the experience of being in heaven to a very small viewpoint. We've been taught that there will be lots of singing, eating at some banquet, and hanging out with people we've known. Maybe some people think we will be angels floating around on clouds (This is not biblical BTW).

So, when I read about Isaiah's experience of being in God's presence and everything he gets to see and smell and hear, I get really jealous - and excited! Can you imagine it? Massive open spaces, bright and shiny buildings, and different colors. And what about the creatures? I mean, Isaiah got to see a burning, flying snake-like creature that was singing!

If God can create beautiful sunsets and giraffes and venus fly traps, imagine what He'll create in a new heaven and a new earth! Can you just imagine - beautiful cities, no more pain, new adventures, and new bodies! I can't wait!

Questions:

1. Up to this point in your life, what has been your understanding of what heaven will be like?
2. Why do we tend to create boring ideas of our Creative God?
3. Do some dreaming for just a moment - what things would you like to see or experience in heaven that just seems too outlandish?

## Day Three

*Read Isaiah 6:1-8*

I feel like we have all been there - we've all let that lie slip, lashed out against our friends and family, let negative influences affect our thinking and actions. We know that is not what God has called us to do, but we are broken people. Just like clockwork, there comes the pain of regret that settles in the bottom of our hearts, causing a huge ache. That's the Holy Spirit alive and working in our hearts to make us more like Christ.

Personally, whenever I feel that ache in my heart it's hard to forget about it. I'll never forget one night I lashed out at my friends and immediately regretted the hate I said to them. I felt that pain in my heart and asked for forgiveness.

Isaiah had the Holy Spirit alive within him and working in his life. His cry to the Lord after recognizing where his life was at that moment was a search of forgiveness. He felt that regret and longed to be made right with the Lord.

Questions:

1. Are you quick to seek God's forgiveness or do you tend to put it off? Do you see it as important at all?
2. How do you and your friends handle forgiving one another? Do you think it helps you to forgive properly?
3. Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to ask for forgiveness from?

## Day Four

*Read Isaiah 6:1-8*

Have you ever done something that you didn't want to, but knew if you did it you would benefit from it greatly? Teachers and coaches (in particular) love to make us do things we don't want to do. They know it will make us stronger. I'm also talking about our spiritual coaches. These are the people that encourage us in our relationship with Jesus. They love to make us uncomfortable and to push us in order to help us become better followers of Christ.

God is one of our spiritual coaches too - He pushes us to be the best follower of Christ that we can be. Isaiah's spiritual coach was God. God was making him uncomfortable with himself and the people he was a part of. God wanted him uncomfortable to see if he was willing to trust him with his purposes and future.

Questions:

1. Where do you tend to become uncomfortable in your spiritual walk? What does that discomfort look like for you personally? Do you easily recognize it as God doing it?
2. Who are the people you trust to speak truth into areas of your life that need to be worked on?
3. How can you show thankfulness to those people this week?

## Day Five

*Read Isaiah 6:1-8*

There is an unspoken rule on the first day of school or the first time in a new class - no one volunteers to go first in anything! Even as a senior in high school on my first day surrounded by peers (who I've known for years), that no one talked or volunteered to do anything in fear of being labeled the "teacher's pet." Not the worst label, but pretty bad. (insert sarcastic grin)

Deep down, none of us want to be the one who stands out - it is scary. It's scary to go against the world. As Christians, we are called to be different. For Isaiah, he wholeheartedly volunteered for what God was asking for. He didn't ask a bunch of questions about his mission but goes with the confidence of knowing that his God is by his side.

When we feel a call in our life, we should honor that call. Whether it is to volunteer in your church, to text that person who's been on your heart, or to go on that mission trip. God has called us to "go and tell" for a reason, and we are never alone in our journey of volunteering for the Lord. He is beside us the whole time. Don't be afraid to put your hand up first for what God has called you to do in your life. This is one "teacher's pet" we should all line up to be!

Questions:

1. What types of things do you like to wholeheartedly volunteer for? Why is this so important to you?
2. Are there things God asks us to do that make you uncomfortable? Why are those things a challenge for you?
3. What promise could you claim from scripture that would give you more confidence to say "yes" to God? (for example - He is with me, He promises to provide for me, etc.)