

ECC Growth Groups – Term 4, 2014
Behold our God – Study 4: God is Holy (Isaiah 6)

At different times the Bible speaks of people relating to God as they would relate to a friend. For example, in Exodus 33 (just before the passage we looked at last week) we read, “*The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend*” (Exodus 33:11). The book of James mentions that Abraham was “*called God’s friend*” (James 2:23). Jesus says to his disciples, “*You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you*” (John 15:14-15). We even sing the song, “*What a friend we have in Jesus*”.

This is a precious truth. However, what are some of the dangers if we only think of God in this way?

Spend some time praying together before you look at God’s Word.

The book of Isaiah opens with his nation in serious trouble. Uzziah, Judah’s strong king for half a century, was dying. Assyria, the evil empire to the East, was restless and threatening. In Chapter 6, Isaiah receives a vision of God.

Read Isaiah 6:1-7.

Split into groups of three or four. Provide blank sheets of paper and coloured pencils/textas/crayons. Have each group draw the scene depicted in verses 1-2 of the passage. Have each group share their drawing with the other groups. What stood out to you as you sought to capture this scene?

or

Have the group list each of the descriptions in verse 1 of the vision. Pause at each point and briefly discuss what that particular aspect communicates about God.

In verse 3 the seraphs call out to each other. What might be the significance of their repetition?

What effect do their voices have?

If this is the effect that *their* voices have, what does that say about the One that they worship?

Is this the way you often view God? Why/why not?

Why does Isaiah respond in the way he does?

Do you often feel like Isaiah does here? Why/why not?

Clearly there are significant problems created when a holy God comes into contact with people or things that are unholy. What is the way ahead suggested by the seraph's actions in verses 6 and 7?

This passage from Isaiah is just one of many in the Bible that reveal to us that God is a holy God. In fact, in the Old Testament the adjective "holy" is attached to God's name more often than any of the other adjectives put together. Although this is the case, what causes us to forget or minimise this aspect of God's character?

A French critic of Christianity once said, "The good God will forgive me; that's his job (or his speciality)". Why can't God just forgive our sin?

Read Romans 3:21-26.

How is it possible for us as unholy people to relate to this holy God?

How can we remain filled with awe at God's holiness and yet also filled with thankfulness for what he has done for us at the cross?

See Appendix 1 – 'Theology to Doxology' and then close the study with a time of prayer.

Appendix 1 – Theology to Doxology

For our *'Theology to Doxology'* in this study it is appropriate that we use the classic hymn, *'Holy, holy, holy'*. If you would like to listen to a version online, you can use the URL below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCnRYj3lMIQ>

If you would like to sing together or simply read out the lyrics, they are included below:

Verse 1

Holy holy holy
 Lord God Almighty
 Early in the morning
 Our song shall rise to Thee
 Holy holy holy
 Merciful and mighty
 God in three persons
 Blessed Trinity

Verse 2

Holy holy holy
 All the saints adore Thee
 Casting down their golden crowns
 Around the glassy sea
 Cherubim and seraphim
 Falling down before Thee
 Who was, and is,
 And evermore shall be

CCLI Song # 1156
 John Bacchus Dykes | Reginald Heber
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Verse 3

Holy holy holy
 Though the darkness hide Thee
 Though the eye of sinful man
 Thy glory may not see
 Only Thou art holy
 There is none beside Thee
 Perfect in power
 In love and purity

Verse 4

Holy holy holy
 Lord God Almighty
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name
 In earth and sky and sea
 Holy holy holy
 Merciful and mighty
 God in three persons
 Blessed Trinity