

Unit 6 Assignment

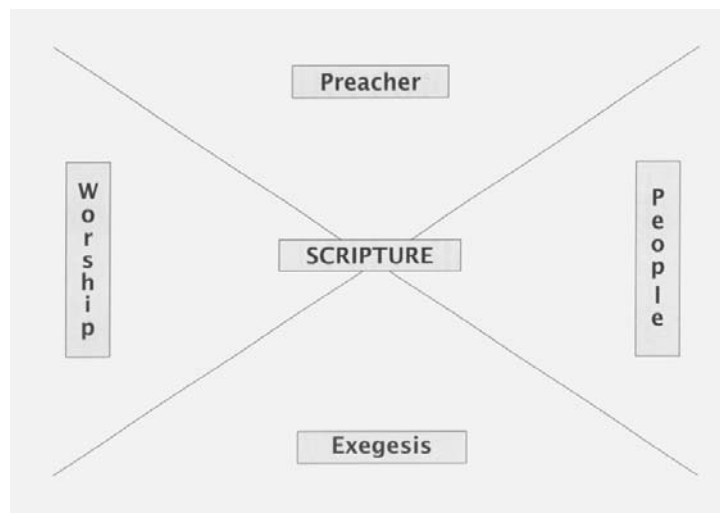
## Picturing God



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## Unit 6 Picturing God

### Part a Complete in note form the four sections of the grid in unit 2



### Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-8

#### Isaiah's Commission

**6** 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another:

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

<sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the door posts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup> “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.”

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

<sup>8</sup> 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!”

### Exegesis

King Uzziah died about 740bc and he had ruled long and fairly prosperously although he is said to have contracted leprosy because he tried to take over the high priests duties. Many people turned from God during his reign as the king was more interested in the state than it's religion.

Isaiah's vision was his commission to be God's messenger to his people. This was not an easy task as the people considered themselves blessed by God and Isaiah had to tell them they were to be destroyed because of their disobedience. God expected His people to act justly to others and to obey the basic premise God's law. Instead the Israeli nation had degenerated into a people of faithless immorality and idolatry, they were filled with national pride and conducted empty religious rituals.

Isaiah's view of God details His greatness, mystery and power. Isaiah recognises his sinfulness before God and having been forgiven by God he submits himself unreservedly and without exception to God's service no matter how difficult the tasks ahead.

## People

Do we admire our God? Can we comprehend the magnificence? Do we stand in awe? If we view God based on our own capabilities and consider only that which is within our own understanding we will be unable to picture our God. We must look beyond all that is possible and comprehensible, look in wonder to the mystery of our God like a young child views their first conjurers illusion.

Isaiah's example of recognising his sinfulness should encourage us to confess our sins. When we are lonely and feel separated from God remember that God does not abandon us, our sin cuts us off from God. We should study our actions and reactions, where do we fall short of God's standards? The more clearly Isaiah saw God the more aware he became of his own powerlessness and inadequacy to do anything of lasting value without God. With the Spirit's power today we too can fulfil a vocation for God. We should be ready and continually listening so as He calls we can respond; "Here I am, send me"

## Worship

We should recognise and acknowledge how great and powerful our God is. Be in awe of our creator although we are incapable of understanding all that God is. To be in His presence should always be a wondrous privilege.

We should recognise how sinful we are, and the equal extent of God's offer of forgiveness. Through the power of His Spirit we can and should accept that forgiveness given freely by His grace and then we can receive the power to do His work.

## Preacher

Personal worship and prayer is paramount to a real and gracious relationship with God. Study, reading and preparation for a service should only start once a right relationship with God is established.

Before I can engage in God's work I must recognise my sin and accept His forgiveness. In humility I must recognise that it is an unequal partnership with my abilities and talents being used to serve God's will and kingdom. My position and relationship with my Lord is known to me, though the congregation's I serve is known better by God than I. I should never assume I know their needs but should ask for the Spirit's guidance both in the preparation for, and during the worship.

**Part b Prepare the opening ten to fifteen minutes of worship and include adoration, confession and the assurance of forgiveness.**

*The following is a transcription from the enclosed CD. Notes have been made to clarify where points match the assignment questions and additions inserted following reflections on the worship.*

**Call to worship**

Let us join with heavenly Seraphs and Praise our Lord, our God.

‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty,  
the whole earth is full of his Glory’

Hymn:     Holy, holy,  
          Holy is the lord god almighty.  
          Holy, holy,  
          Holy is the lord god almighty.  
          Who was and is and is to come,  
          Who was and is and is to come.

Lift up his name with the sound of singing,  
Lift up his name in all the earth.  
Lift up your voice and give him glory,  
For he is worthy to be praised.

Nathan Fellingham.

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**Paraphrase of reading**

The Prophet Isaiah in a vision saw two Seraphs, winged Angels, calling to one another praise to God; ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty’ and the scene was awesome; door post and thresholds shook and the Temple filled with smoke.

Isaiah cried “Woe to me, I am ruined, I am a man of unclean lips, I live among the lost and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty”.

Hymn:     Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
          Open the eyes of my heart  
          I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy holy

Holy, holy holy  
holy, holy holy  
holy, holy holy I want to see You.

Paul Baloche

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### Confession

Lord, I pray you would open our eyes to you, so we can see ourselves as Isaiah did, to see ourselves as the ruined, as people with unclean lips. Lord, as Isaiah we feel the need to be forgiven, to be humbled by Your awesome presence, to cry out to You "I am unclean".

Isaiah was touched on the mouth by a burning coal from the alter and the Seraph declares "Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for".

For us too, our guilt is taken away and our sin atoned for, by God through the unique sacrifice and the continuing presence of His Son, Jesus, the Christ. Lord, we pray that you would help us to accept Your unending love and accept the assurance of Your ceaseless forgiveness. Amen.

Hymn: Hung from a tree for you,  
Laid down His life for you,  
Created life from death.  
Love and protects you,  
Carries and cares for you,  
Created life with His breath.

*My God, My God, My God, Hold me close.*

Hears every prayer from you,  
Knows every depth of you,  
Know that His word is true.  
Deep in your heart for love,  
Answering prayers with love,  
Know that His word is for you.

*My God, My God, My God, Hold me close.*

Your tears He'll wipe away,  
Bring back the light of day,  
Blood that was shed for our pain.  
Died for our sin to pay,  
Washes them clean away,  
Blood that removes every stain.

*My God, My God, My God, Hold me close.*

Rob Newton  
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**Part c Write a meditation on God that could be used in an act of worship.**

During the 'reflection' of proofs and pointers for the existence of God in *Unit 6 D4d* the following prose was written. By the time the activity of *Unit 6 E7* was reached it had become a personal worship song thereby reiterating the comment from the module that the study of God should, and does, lead us to worship.

Point to God (The Gentle breath)

The gentle breath, the mighty wave, points to God.  
 The last and final word of love, points to God.  
 The trigger pulled, remorse removed, points to God.  
 The endless sand between your toes,  
 The run through the dew laden grass,  
 The desperate look of the lost and feared, points to God.  
 We cannot hide ourselves from Him who touches all we are,  
 both near and far, both bad or good, points to God.

Condoning the actions of evil, points to God.  
 The sad and lonely orphan's tears, point to God.  
 The broken heart of the childless, points to God.  
 The very first smile, the hidden laugh,  
 The cough of embarrassment,  
 And the soft and tender first kiss, points to God.  
 Which ever way we turn, which ever way we look,  
 There's nothing here on earth that doesn't point to God.

Reveal Your heart, reveal Your heart,  
 Shine Your light, shine Your light,  
 Send Your Son, Send Your Son, Send Your Son, Send Your Son,  
 Give us life, give us life.

Rob Newton

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