



1 ...since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

- Spiritual Giants emerge through the difficulties of life.

Today our Spiritual Giant is: Isaiah

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

When you're trying to make sense of it all:

- An encounter with God will change everything.

An encounter with God:

- Our greatest pain can be a catalyst for our greatest gain.

If we're going to hear from God, then we need to run to God.

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim... 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. Isaiah 6:1-4 (NIV)

- When we see God clearly we're able to see ourselves clearly.

5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies." Isaiah 6:5 (NLT)

What we compare ourselves to becomes our standard.

When we compare ourselves to others, we never see our true condition.

...I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips... Isaiah 6:5b (NLT)

23 Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; 24 See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong— then guide me on the road to eternal life. Psalm 139:23-24 (MSG)

- God removes our past so He can redeem our future.

We accept His forgiveness.

We make God our standard.

We live to please Him.

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your

sins are forgiven." 8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." Isaiah 6:6-8 (NLT)

Final words of encouragement:

- "Let God reveal more of Himself to you."

6 Seek GOD while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand. Isaiah 55:6 (MSG)

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

Key: Go all In.

- "Let God change you."

18 "Come, let's talk this over!" says the Lord; "no matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as wool! (I want to and I'm able to make a change in you...God says) 19 If you will only let me help you, if you will only obey... Isaiah 1:18-19 (TLB)

2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 1 Peter 2:2-3 (NLT)

Key: Take the next step.

- "Accept God's assignment for you."

1 "Arise, my people! Let your light shine for all the nations to see! For the glory of the Lord is streaming from you. 2 Darkness as black as night shall cover all the peoples of the earth, but the glory of the Lord will shine from you. 3 All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see the glory of the Lord upon you. Isaiah 60:1-3 (TLB)

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

Key: Discover your purpose.



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- If you could spend time with Isaiah, what question would you ask him that might help you in your faith race?
- How does an encounter with God at a low point in our life become something for great gain? What does it mean that our greatest pain can be a catalyst for our greatest gain?
- Have you ever had an encounter with God that brought clarity to your life? Share what that was like.
- Why does an encounter with God change the way we see ourselves?
- Why do so many people have a hard time allowing God to remove their past? What does a redeemed future mean?
- What does it mean to "Go all In" with God? How do we allow God to continue to reveal himself to us?
- Are you allowing God to continue to change you? Are you taking "Next Steps"? If you can share, what are they?
- God has an assignment for you. Read Isaiah 60:1-3 - Have you accepted God's assignment for your life? Why is it essential that we accept this assignment? How does this assignment give us a new purpose?

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