

**Growth Group Questions**  
**December 3, 2023**  
**“The Gift of Calling”**

**Scripture:**

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, 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 doorposts 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 seraphim 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!”

**Matthew 1:18-23**

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[a]</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[b]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[c]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel!”<sup>[d]</sup> (which means “God with us”).

**Isaiah 6:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>He said, “Go and tell this people:

“Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.”

<sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull  
and close their eyes.<sup>[a]</sup>

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed.”

<sup>11</sup>Then I said, “For how long, Lord?”

And he answered:

“Until the cities lie ruined  
and without inhabitant,  
until the houses are left deserted  
and the fields ruined and ravaged,  
<sup>12</sup> until the LORD has sent everyone far away  
and the land is utterly forsaken.

<sup>13</sup> And though a tenth remains in the land,  
it will again be laid waste.

But as the terebinth and oak  
leave stumps when they are cut down,  
so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

### **Frederick Buechner Quote**

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

### **Questions:**

1. What does it mean to be called by God?
2. What does the Bible tell us about God’s calling?
3. This week’s sermon is entitled “The Gift of Calling.” Why should we consider God’s calling a gift?
4. In Matthew 1:18-13, we read of God’s calling of Joseph. Pastor Paul told us that the Bible is filled with stories about how God called individuals for special purposes. What Bible story of God’s calling stands out to you? What is your key take away from the example you have chosen?
5. What are some of the things God calls all of us to do?
6. What kind of things can get in the way of our hearing God’s call or responding to His call?
7. Pastor Paul told us that the word “vocation” comes from the Latin word for “calling,” and that God gives each of us a different vocation. How can we discern God’s vocation for our lives?
8. How does God help us respond to his call?