

Life Group Questions

April 15

Get-To-Know-Me-Question:

When did you start doubting Santa Claus?

Into The Bible Questions:

Read through **Isaiah 6:1-8**.

1. Scripture paints a pretty crazy scene here. Isaiah has this experience of God in the middle of the Temple - an experience he couldn't have been expecting. (*answer each question separately*)
 - What's the most surprising part of this experience?
 - If you were Isaiah, what would be the main details that would stick with you forever?
2. Let's look again at Isaiah 6:5. Isaiah sees God and his first response is to say, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips."
 - What is usually your response when you have a God encounter?
 - What is the significance of Isaiah's response being a confession?
 - What is the connection between God-encounters and confession?
3. Isaiah's response doesn't stay in confession. In the next breath, he declares, "Yet I have seen the Lord of hosts!" What does this say about God that He is willing to meet us in our unclean state?

Let's Go Deeper:

Read through **John 20:19-31**.

- Look closely at these two accounts of Jesus appearing before the disciples (20:19-23 and 20:24-29). What differences do you notice? What are the similarities between the two?

- Thomas is away when the rest of the disciples see the risen Christ. John 19:20 says that Jesus even showed them his side and the wounds in his hands. By the time Thomas is back, Jesus is gone.
 - What are Thomas' thoughts and feelings for having missed this experience?
 - Talk about a time in your life when others experienced God and you felt like you missed out. What was that like?

- In both encounters, Jesus' first words are, "Peace be with you." (20:19, 20:26).
 - Why is it important that those are Jesus' first words?
 - What does it mean for those who heard it the first time, to hear it a second time in Thomas' presence?
 - Where do you need Jesus to say, "Peace be with you" in your life?

- Thinking back on Isaiah, God was willing to meet with him in the midst of his uncleanness. What does it mean that Jesus is willing to encounter Thomas in the midst of Thomas' doubting?
 - What does this say about us when we have doubts?
 - Have you ever met with God in the midst of doubting? What is that like?

- Jesus finishes this section by saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (20:29)
 - Who is Jesus talking about in that statement?
 - Why do you think those who believe without seeing are blessed?
 - What did it take for you to believe?