

Group Guide 1 — There Is No One Like Him

God Is Holy • Casual Has To Go

ICE BREAKERS AT THE TABLE

Step 1 — Pick This Week's Table Host. The host reads the questions (or calls on others) and keeps the conversation moving. Host reminder: don't rush. Give people time to think.

Opening Questions

- What is something that wowed you the first time, but now barely registers?
- When you hear the word holy, what is the first picture that comes to mind?
- On a scale of 1–10, how much wonder have you felt toward God this past month?

TEACHING (LED BY TEACHER)

Big Idea: What we believe about God's holiness changes how we approach Him.

Teaching Summary: It is easy to become so familiar with church, routine, and God-talk that we slowly lose our awe of the God behind it all. We can speak about God constantly and still stop being amazed by Him. This week confronts that drift with one simple truth: God is holy. Not just helpful, not just loving, not just powerful — holy. Set apart. Completely other. There is no one like Him. When we see Him clearly, casual has to go.

TABLE STUDY GUIDE

Scripture Focus

Isaiah 6:1–8 • Revelation 4:8

Step 1: Read It Slowly

Have one person read Isaiah 6:1–8. Have another person read Revelation 4:8.

Take Note: What Do You Notice?

- How is God described in these verses?
- What do the angels say about God, and what do they not say?
- What words or images stand out to you as you listen?

Step 2: Take a Closer Look

In Hebrew, repetition is emphasis. Only once in all of Scripture is an attribute of God repeated three times — holy, holy, holy. The angels are saying there is no one like Him.

Discuss Together

- Why do you think holiness, rather than love or power, is the word repeated three times?
- What does it mean that God is not a better version of us but entirely different from us?
- When Isaiah sees God clearly, he sees himself clearly. Why do those two things go together?

Step 3: Make It Personal

Be Honest

- Where has familiarity with God quietly replaced wonder in your life?
- Have you ever caught yourself going through the motions of faith while drifting away from God?
- When God exposes something in you, do you tend to hear shame or an invitation to be healed?

Step 4: Reframe the Way We Think

Table Reflection

- How would this week look different if awe came before activity?
- The same holiness that exposed Isaiah also cleansed him. How does that reshape the way you approach God with your failures?
- If God is completely unlike us and still invites us near, what does that say about His heart toward you?

GOING DEEPER: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TEXT

Optional — for groups that want to dig further. Use this alongside the questions above; the table host can take as much or as little as time and the group's appetite allow.

Break Down the Verse

Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)

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

The Hebrew word for holy, *qadosh*, means “set apart, cut off, wholly other.” Hebrew has no word for “-est” (holiest); to make something supreme, you repeat it. “Holy, holy, holy” is the only attribute of God lifted to the third degree anywhere in Scripture — never “love, love, love” or “power, power, power.” The angels aren't merely worshiping; they're declaring God to be in a category with no rival and no comparison.

Then notice the paradox in the same breath: the God who is utterly set apart fills “the whole earth” with His glory. Transcendence and nearness collide in one verse. The holy God is not distant — His glory saturates the ordinary world we walk through every day.

Wrestle With It

Provocative Questions

- If holiness — not love — is the word heaven shouts three times, what does that reveal about what we tend to emphasize about God and what we quietly leave out?
- Isaiah's first response to a holy God was “Woe is me — I am ruined.” Why does seeing God's holiness expose us before it comforts us, and is that a flaw or a gift?
- Can you truly love a God you are no longer in awe of? Where is the line between intimacy with God and over-familiarity with Him?

WRAP-UP QUESTION

As you think about this week:

- What would it look like to let casual go and approach God with awe again?
- What is one small step you could take to slow down and notice God this week?
- Where do you most need to see God again before you take your next assignment?

CLOSING PRAYER (OPTIONAL)

Invite someone to pray, asking God to restore wonder, to humble and heal, and to draw the room near to Him.

God, restore our wonder. Don't let us treat You as common. Interrupt our normal with Your holiness, and draw us close to You.