



Study Guide - Get in the Game

Sermon Recap 🎬

Josh expresses deep gratitude for the many "Gamechangers" within the church who actively serve their community and contribute to the mission of connecting others to God. He emphasizes that being a Gamechanger means leveraging one's life for eternal impact, encouraging everyone to step up and embrace their calling in faith. Through references to the prophet Isaiah, he highlights that God qualifies those who feel unworthy, inviting them to join in a greater purpose despite their past. Ultimately, Josh calls on the church community to respond to God's invitation with a willingness to serve and make a difference in the world.

Ice Breaker

If you had to pick a superpower that would be totally useless in everyday life, what would it be and how would you try to make the most of it?

Discussion Questions

▼ Josh emphasized that 'Gamechangers' leverage their lives for eternal impact, and it's more than just volunteering.

- What does it mean to be a 'Gamechanger' in our community, and how can we actively participate in that role?
- Reflect on the ways you contribute to your community or church. What role do you feel you could take on to make a greater impact?

▼ Pastor talked about our lives being connected to eternity. He mentioned that our choices are not only connected to each other but also to eternity, as illustrated by the lives of early church figures.

- How does understanding our actions and decisions in the present affect our view of the future?
- Think about a recent decision you made. How did it reflect your values and beliefs about your future?

Read Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV

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, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 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.

⁵ “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.”

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

⁸ 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!”

Discussion Questions

▼ Josh highlighted that Jesus commanded his followers in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to make disciples of all nations, emphasizing the importance of our mission.

- How does this inspire you to 'get in the game' and share your faith with others?
- What specific steps can you take this week to share your faith or support someone on their spiritual journey?

▼ Why do you think it's important for each person to feel that they have a calling to serve, regardless of their past mistakes or struggles?

- What past experience or struggle do you think might be holding you back from stepping into a calling? How can you overcome that?

▼ Josh emphasized that faith is not a spectator sport and encouraged everyone to engage meaningfully in their church.

- How does Josh's message about shifting from being spectators in faith to active participants resonate with you?
- Consider areas in your life where you might be observing rather than participating. What steps can you take to change that?

Challenge



Prayer 🙏

- Ask for any prayer requests
- Pray for God to help you apply the lessons from the sermon this week
- Ask for courage to step into your purpose as a Game Changer
- Seek God's guidance in serving others and growing together in faith

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5 Day Reading Plan

Day 1

Matthew 28:16-20

The call to be a Game Changer is not simply about performing tasks; it's about understanding our purpose in Christ. Each of us is created with unique gifts and a specific calling. Whether we're waking up early, coaching a game, or serving meals, the heart behind our service matters. It's easy to view service as just filling a need, but God has called us to a higher purpose—leveraging our lives for eternal impact. This week, consider how your actions can reflect God's love and grace in your everyday life.

Being a Game Changer means recognizing that our connections define our actions. When we serve, we not only contribute to our community but also inspire others to discover their God-given purpose. Reflect on how you can deepen your commitment to serving and leading in ways that glorify God and encourage those around you.

- In what areas of your life can you better reflect God's love by serving others?
- Have you noticed the impact of your actions on others? How can you improve this?
- What is one specific way you can be a Game Changer in your community this week?
- Pray for God to reveal your unique gifts and how to use them effectively.

- Ask God for courage to step out of your comfort zone in serving others.

Day 2

Romans 12

As believers, we are not called to serve alone but as one body with many parts. Each gift has a purpose and function, contributing to the greater work of the Church. Embrace your role, whether it's leading worship, teaching kids, or organizing events, as essential to God's plan. When we function in our giftings, we create an environment where God can move, touch, and transform lives.

This day, reflect on the importance of community and collaboration in fulfilling God's mission. Being a Game Changer means working together, celebrating each other's strengths, and uplifting one another in prayer and service. Consider how your unique contributions help build the body of Christ and impact those who do not yet know Him.

- What gifts has God given you that you can use to serve others?
- How can you encourage someone else in their walk with Christ today?
- What can you do to foster a spirit of collaboration within your church or community?

- Pray for unity within the body of Christ and strength for the leaders.
- Reflect on how you can support someone in their ministry efforts this week.

Day 3

Isaiah 6

When Isaiah encountered the holiness of God, he responded with obedience. Like Isaiah, you too are called to respond to God's invitation to be a part of something greater. Accepting God's call to serve requires humility and readiness to step into unknown territory. God's plans often stretch our faith and challenge our limits, but this is where His strength shines most bright.

As you meditate on this scripture, think about what God is asking you to do. Are there fears or doubts holding you back? Allow God to help you overcome these barriers. He equips those He calls, and when we say, "Here I am, send me," we step into a journey that leads to fulfillment and purpose!

- What excuses have you used to avoid God's calling in your life?
- How can you take actionable steps towards responding to God's invitation?
- What fears do you need to surrender to God today?

- Pray for strength to overcome challenges in answering God's call.
- Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities to serve in your everyday life.

Day 4

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Your labor in the Lord is never in vain. Even when it's hard to see the fruit of your efforts, trust that God is using you to impact lives, even if you can't see it yet. The little acts of kindness and service ripple out in ways we may not fully understand. God honors our commitment to serve despite challenges, discomfort, and fatigue. The calling to be a Game Changer is ongoing; we must persist, knowing that our investment in others bears fruit in its perfect timing.

Reflect on the impact of your service and how God has used your efforts to touch the lives of others. Celebrate 'small wins' that may seem trivial but are significant in advancing the Kingdom. When we focus on being present and faithful, the Lord works through us more than we can imagine.

- What are some 'small wins' in your service that you can celebrate today?
- How can you remain encouraged even when you don't see immediate results?
- What steps can you take to cultivate patience in your service journey?

- Pray for perseverance in your service, even when it gets tough.
- Thank God for the opportunities you have to impact others around you.

Day 5

Galatians 6:1-10

As you conclude this devotional, remember that you are not alone in your efforts to serve. The community of believers supports one another, holding each other accountable, encouraging, and reminding each other of the importance of persistence in doing good. The journey of being a Game Changer is filled with both challenges and victories—embrace both as they contribute to your growth and faith.

Ask yourself how you can continue to be a light in your community. Every act of service, however small, aligns with God's mission to bring heaven to earth. Together, let us move forward, steadfast in our commitment to not grow weary but to actively seek ways to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

- What is one commitment you can make to serve others continually?
- How can you inspire others to join you in being a Game Changer?
- What steps can you take to remain steadfast in your faith and service?

- Pray for motivation and strength to keep serving God and others.
- Reflect on the larger impact of your service and what it means for your family and community.



Want To Go Deeper?

Historical Context

Isaiah 6 is a pivotal chapter in the Book of Isaiah, providing significant historical and theological context. Here are some key points to consider:

- 1. Time of King Uzziah's Death:** Isaiah 6 begins with the phrase "In the year that King Uzziah died," which is around 740 BC. King Uzziah's reign marked a period of prosperity and military strength for Judah. However, his death signaled a time of uncertainty and instability, as he was a strong leader who had maintained peace and security. This context of national anxiety sets the stage for Isaiah's vision.
- 2. Spiritual Condition of Judah:** During this time, Judah was experiencing spiritual decline. The people had turned away from God, chasing after other gods and indulging in practices that were contrary to the covenant with Yahweh. This apostasy is a central theme in Isaiah's prophecies, as he calls the nation back to faithfulness.
- 3. Vision of God's Holiness:** Isaiah's vision in the temple, where he sees the Lord "high and exalted," emphasizes God's holiness and sovereignty. The seraphim proclaiming "Holy, holy, holy" underscores the absolute purity and otherness of God, contrasting sharply with the sinfulness of the people of Judah.

4. **Isaiah's Call and Commission:** The chapter describes Isaiah's call to be a prophet. His immediate reaction to the vision is one of unworthiness, recognizing his own sinfulness and that of his people. The cleansing of his lips with a coal from the altar symbolizes God's purification and preparation of Isaiah for his prophetic mission.
5. **Theological Themes:** The chapter highlights themes of divine sovereignty, holiness, and grace. God's question, "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah's response, "Here am I. Send me," illustrate the willingness required to serve God despite personal inadequacies. It also reflects the idea that God qualifies those He calls.
6. **Prophetic Mission:** Isaiah is given a difficult mission to deliver a message to a people who will largely reject it. This foreshadows the resistance and challenges prophets often faced, as well as the eventual judgment and hope for restoration that are central to Isaiah's message.

Understanding these historical and theological contexts helps to grasp the significance of Isaiah 6, both in its immediate setting and its broader implications for the narrative of the Bible.

Hebrew Word Study

qadosh

Original Word: קָדוֹשׁ

Pronunciation: kah-DOSH

Phonetic Spelling: (kaw-doshe')

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: qadowsh

Definition: Holy, sacred, set apart

Meaning: sacred, God, an angel, a saint, a sanctuary

Word Origin: Derived from the root קָדַשׁ (qadash), meaning "to be set apart" or "to be holy."

Corresponding Greek Word: - ἅγιος (**hagios**) Often used in the New Testament to describe the holiness of God, His people, and the Holy Spirit.

Usage: The term "qadosh" primarily denotes something or someone that is set apart for a special purpose, often in relation to God. It signifies purity, sanctity, and separation from the common or profane. In the Hebrew Bible, "qadosh" is frequently used to describe God Himself, His people, places, and objects dedicated to His service.

Cultural and Historical Background: In ancient Israelite culture, holiness was a central concept that defined the relationship between God and His people. The Israelites were called to be a "holy nation" (Exodus 19:6), distinct from other nations through their covenant with God. Holiness involved both moral purity and ritual cleanliness, reflecting God's nature and His requirements for worship and community life. The concept of holiness permeated various aspects of life, including the priesthood, the temple, and the observance of the Law.

Deeper Application

1. **Embrace Your Calling:** Just as Isaiah was called and cleansed by God for a specific purpose, we are also called to step into the roles God has prepared for us. This involves a willingness to say, "Here I am, send me," and to trust that God will equip us for the tasks He sets before us.
2. **Leverage Your Life for Eternal Impact:** The sermon challenges us to see beyond the immediate and the mundane, recognizing that our actions, words, and service are connected to eternity. This perspective encourages us to live intentionally, using our gifts and opportunities to further God's kingdom.
3. **Overcome Excuses:** Many of us have excuses for not engaging more fully in God's work, such as feeling unworthy or unprepared. The sermon reminds us that these excuses do not hold because it is God who qualifies and empowers us. We are encouraged to move past these barriers and step into our divine purpose.
4. **Engage with the Community:** The sermon highlights the importance of being a "Game Changer" in the community, whether through direct service, leadership, or support roles. This involves actively participating in the life of the church and the broader community, contributing to the mission of connecting people back to God.
5. **Trust in God's Sovereignty:** In times of uncertainty, like the period following King Uzziah's death, we are reminded to fix our eyes on God, who remains on the throne. This trust in God's sovereignty provides peace and direction as we navigate our own challenges and uncertainties.

Extra Notes From Josh

It is with Uzziah's death that Judah's truly hopeless situation emerges. The date is approximately 740 B.C. By this time the Assyrian emperor Tiglath-Pileser III has clearly established himself as a military conqueror to be feared. But it seems likely that for Judah, as long as the powerful Uzziah was on the throne (even with his son Jotham acting as the front man), the immediacy of the threat was blurred. But when Uzziah was removed from the scene, the danger could no longer be ignored. Jotham was no strong man, and possibly Jotham's son Ahaz was already under the control of a pro-Assyrian party in the government. What could possibly be done? Isaiah's vision, at least for him, was a reorienting of his moral compass. The king was dead? Who is the king in this world anyway? "My eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty!" (6:5).

Beginning with Exodus 6:3 and continuing on through 19:6 and throughout the entire Old Testament, the word "holy" is given special prominence in describing Israel's God, occurring in all its forms more than eight hundred times. This is as it should be, for the people of Israel had learned that there is only one being who is truly other than this world, and they had learned that it was his character, even more than his essence, that set him apart from us humans.

This is why Isaiah knew there was no hope for him once he had heard the seraphs describe the Lord as the absolutely Holy One (the triple "holy" expresses the superlative). He knew that his character was utterly unlike that of the Holy One. If there were any question whether "unclean" had moral

connotations (after all, altars and ceremonial vessels could be “unclean” too), all doubt is dispelled when, after touching Isaiah’s lips with the coal, the seraph pronounces that Isaiah’s “guilt” has been “taken away” and his “sin atoned for.” But why does Isaiah say that his lips are unclean? Why not his heart?

1. It may be that the lips are being referred to as the evidence of what is really in the heart.
2. God clearly does want to heal his people and promises to do so. If nothing else, the promises of chapters 2 and 4 make that clear. But those promises are not alone.
3. Isaiah, who will preserve his words until the day when the cauterizing fires of the Exile fall and there will finally be a generation willing to listen. Then real healing will result, and the stage will be set for the promised Messiah to come.
4. There seem to be two possible referents for “holy seed.” One is to the Messiah. The promises of Genesis 3:15 and 22:18 seem to point in this direction. Also the references to tree parts to describe the Messiah in Isaiah lends support (“branch,” *şemaḅ* [4:2]; “shoot,” *ḅoṭer*, and “branch,” *neşer* [11:1]).