

# CONSECRATION

## Beauty for Ashes

Upon returning from 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, stood up and read a portion of Isaiah 61. After He had finished, He said, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” As we look at the first few verses of Isaiah 61, what an encouragement it is to know that the Son of God is the One who brings comfort, restoration, freedom, beauty out of ashes, gladness out of mourning, and praise instead of fainting.

**Icebreaker:** If you could travel anywhere in the world in 2024, where would it be and why?

**Worship:** [Worship Playlist 1](#) from [LifegroupLeaders.com](#)

Goodness of God | *Bethel Music*

Build My Life | *Pat Barrett*

Way Maker | *Leeland*

**Read:** Isaiah 61:1-3 and reflect on who is being addressed in the passage, and subsequently in Jesus’ day? Take time to notice who are the intended recipients of the promises? (A: *the poor, brokenhearted, captives, prisoners, those who mourn and grieve*). What do all of these people have in common?

### **Discussion:**

1. In looking at your life currently, are there areas that have turned to ashes? (*finances, relationships, health, etc.*)
2. Have you experienced your ashes of destruction, disappointment, loss, etc. being turned into places of beauty?
3. Practically, ashes are good for the soil because they contain valuable nutrients. What “spiritual nutrients” have you seen sown into the soil of your life by your ashes?
4. Does anyone have an example from Scripture that talks about people who experienced disappointment and how God responded to them? (*Examples: David, Elijah*)

### **Prayer:**

Let’s end by breaking up into groups of 2-3 and praying for one another as we are each at different places in life. Some of us are struggling with our ashes, some are in the process of being restored and some are walking in the beauty that God has produced in us. Where are you? Prayer along these lines.

### **Resources:**

[The Art of Kintsugi](#)

[Kris Vallotton Sermon: Give Me Your Ashes, Part 1](#)

[Kris Vallotton Sermon: Give Me Your Ashes, Part 2](#)

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## Living on Mission Wherever You Are

A “multigenerational family on mission” is Antioch’s word of the Lord for 2024. In this discussion guide, we will look at the life of Joseph to get a big picture view of what living on mission looks like. Essentially, living in a daily relationship with God and following His leadership is living on mission with Him. Let’s see how that worked out for Joseph.

**Icebreaker:** What project is on your list to accomplish in 2024?

**Worship:** [Worship Playlist 5](#) from [LifegroupLeaders.com](#)

10,000 Reasons | *Matt Redman*

How Great is Our God | *Chris Tomlin*

In Christ Alone | *Passion Music*

### Read these passages & notes:

1. Read Genesis 37:1-11
  - **First, be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.** Even though he was only 17 and was pasturing his father’s sheep in the fields, God spoke to Joseph in dreams, and he paid attention. Joseph was immature and prideful, but God chose him for a mission. Even in our weaknesses, God chooses us for a life of mission, too.
2. Read Genesis 37:18-28
  - **A life on mission with God will involve challenges (pits).**
3. Read Genesis 39:1-18
  - Even as a slave in Potiphar’s house, Joseph excelled. **A life on mission requires us to offer our best, despite circumstances.** A life on mission also requires us to **stay true to God’s kingdom values**, as Joseph did even in the face of lies.
4. Read Genesis 39:19-23
  - Joseph’s time in prison revealed that God was still with him, giving Him favor and speaking to him through dreams. (Genesis 40)
5. Read Genesis 41:1-16, 38-44
  - **Persevering in living a life of obedience to God** is a key component to living on mission. Whether it was in a prison cell or in a palace before Pharaoh, Joseph used his gifts while giving God glory.

## Discussion: *From the pit to Potiphar's house to prison to the palace*

1. Before we apply this personally to our lives today, what comments do you have related to Joseph's life and mission based on the passages we just read?
2. As followers of Jesus, we are called to offer our lives daily to whatever God's mission (assignment) is for us. After reading the passages above, which phase of Joseph's life do you most identify with currently?
3. Where are you finding yourself most challenged currently?
4. Do you sometimes find it difficult to accept and move forward in God's mission for you? Why?
5. Read Genesis 50:20. Do you have an example of how God turned evil into good for you and/or others as He did in Joseph's life?

## Prayer:

Have someone read this poem as a prayer over the group ([imb.org/on-mission-poem](http://imb.org/on-mission-poem))

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## A Multi-Generational Family on Mission

### Icebreaker: Play 14 Pictures Back

Directions: Everybody, take out your phone and go 14 pictures back. Find that picture and share your picture with the group. Explain why you took it, what you needed it for, or what was happening at that particular moment of your day.

### Worship: [Worship playlist 3](#) from [Lifegroupleaders.com](#)

Living Hope | *Phil Wickham*

No Longer Slaves | *Bethel Music*

King of Kings | *Hillsong Worship*

### Background:

In the book of 1 Peter, the apostle Peter is writing to Gentile believers who are being persecuted throughout Asia Minor. Peter learned that these non-Jewish believers were being persecuted by their Roman and Greek neighbors for following the Way of Jesus. Peter writes to encourage them in their suffering by explaining they have a new family identity as the people of God. He uses language such as “chosen” and “exiled” to help these followers understand that just like Abraham’s family was chosen by God they too now BELONG to the family of Abraham and are chosen as well! God is inviting all people into a new family centered around Jesus with a new identity as God’s beloved children. In 1 Peter 2:9-10, he calls these new followers of Jesus to see themselves as part of that new family identity as the people of God.

### Read: 1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

## Discussion:

1. Just like the people in 1 Peter, we all have a story of how God has invited/is inviting us into His family. Have a few people share how God invited them into His family. When did this happen for you and what did you experience?
2. What impact has the Church as the family of God had on your life? Is this new for you? If not, how has the Church as the body of Christ helped and strengthened your walk with Jesus and your life in general?
3. Imagine yourself as one of those early Gentile believers being persecuted for your newfound faith. What particular words or phrases might have stuck out to you in 1 Peter 2:9-10 as you suffered together in this new family of faith?
4. Now read 1 Peter 2:9-10 in your context as a follower of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – what words stick out to you, personally, as you think about being invited into this “multi-generational family on mission” that we will be talking about this year?
5. In our word of the Lord, we have three key words – **multi-generational** – **family** – **mission**. Which of these three words do you feel like God might want you to grasp hold of more deeply to understand what the Church is in 2024?
6. Where else in scripture do we see the value of the Church as a family discussed and/or lived out?

## Prayer:

Let's end by breaking up into groups of 2-3 and have family time. Share anything that is deeply on your heart that you need prayer for and then allow time as a small group to pray for those concerns.

**Resources:** [Bible Project – 1 Peter Overview](#)

# CONSECRATION

## “Here Am I, Send Me”

**Icebreaker:** **Ask the Question:** If God asked you to go to a segment of people or to a specific country and He told you that you could pick where or to whom, where would you go? Why?

**Worship:** [Worship Playlist 10](#) from [Lifegroupleaders.com](#)

Good, Good Father | *Chris Tomlin*

Holy Spirit | *Bryan and Katie Torwalt*

Revelation Song | *Kari Jobe*

**Sharing: World Mandate:** Some of the people that went to World Mandate might have a lot of thoughts about the weekend. Take some time to have 1 or 2 people share about what they experienced at World Mandate. Also encourage those who went on Sunday to share what stood out to them from the World Mandate Sunday Church Service.

- What was your favorite part?
- Did God speak anything to you personally throughout the weekend?
- What was most impacting from the weekend?

For the rest of our time, we are going to be studying a passage that was shared over the weekend from Isaiah 6.

**Background:** In the first 5 chapters of the book of Isaiah, Isaiah lays out the sins of the Kingdom of Judah and its uncleanness. Chapter 6 is thus the call of Isaiah to go and be a prophet to Judah, calling them back to God. In this passage, Isaiah serves as a representative; someone who is given a calling or task from God to a people that need to encounter Him in a new and fresh way. The story of Isaiah is also representative of us because he is unholy and yet called by a holy God to go - a divine calling to a very human man! So it is with all of us. We are called to go - to our neighbors or to those in our workplace or to another city or country. Isaiah was willing to go wherever God sent him, and he was needy of God's intervention to go before him and lead him in this endeavor. This call came at a time of great crisis. The great King Uzziah had died and Isaiah and his people were mourning his death. Yet, God was still on His throne and actively working even amid crisis. God is on the move, sovereign, and actively calling men, women, and children to go to those who have yet to call on His name!

## Read: Isaiah 6:1-8

We are going to do an ancient Bible study technique called *Lectio Divina*, with this passage. *Lectio Divina* is a Latin phrase meaning 'divine reading' and is a reflective and repetitive way to read the Bible, that is not so much focused on becoming informed by the text but rather being transformed by it. Step-by-step instructions are below. **Reminder:** Every time we come to the Bible, we can get fresh insight because God's Word is living and active. We might have read or heard a passage 20 times and yet the next time we read it, God might have fresh insight from the Holy Spirit. With that in mind, be ready and expectant as we discuss and do this ancient prayer activity that God will speak to us through His word.

## Activity & Discussion:

**Step 1:** Have 2 people in the group read Isaiah 6:1-8 slowly. Try to get 2 people with different versions of the Bible. As everyone listens, task each group member to find or listen for a word or a phrase from the text that sticks out to them. **Important:** For this first part, they don't have to know why it sticks out to them.

**Step 2: ASK:** What word or phrase was highlighted to you as this passage of scripture was read?

**Important:** Have everyone who wants to, share, but help them to **not share the why** they chose the phrase or word; this will come later.

**Step 3:** Have someone read the passage a 3<sup>rd</sup> time slowly and encourage everyone to really focus on their chosen word or phrase. As you read give them time to silently ask God what He is wanting to say to them and us through this phrase/word that was highlighted.

**Step 4:** Now ask the group to share **why** they chose the passage and what God spoke to them regarding their word/phrase. This might take the bulk of the time in discussion. Encourage them that they are practicing hearing God through His Word as we do this and there is grace to simply try.

**Step 5:** For this last step, read the passage one last time and ask the question – **God, what do you want me to do or what action do you want me to take in light of this passage?** Give them time to pray and consider this quietly.

**Step 6:** Have each person share what they feel like God might be asking of them through this word or phrase that was highlighted. Some might not feel comfortable sharing aloud, and that is okay. Whether someone shares or not, encourage everyone to act quickly out of obedience to God.

## Resources:

If you would like more step-by-step instructions on practicing *Lectio Divina*, follow this link: [Lectio Divina](#)

## Prayer:

Let's end by breaking up into groups of 2-3 and have family time. Share anything that is deeply on your heart that you need prayer for and then allow time as a small group to pray for those concerns.