



Sermon Growth Guide

November 29, 2020

Wonder - Heaven Torn Open

Isaiah 64:1-9

Key Verse: Isaiah 64:1

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!”

Big Idea: Jesus breaks down the barrier of sin that separates us from God.

Foundations

The ancients thought the sky was an impenetrable dome. Aristotle thought we were at the center of a series of spheres holding all the planets and stars in place. Even though NASA had launched plenty of things into space and Yuri Gagarin had been up there and back, it took no small amount of courage for Alan Shepard to strap into the nosecone of Freedom 7 on May 5, 1961, and launch into outer space. Little did he know he would eventually play golf on the surface of earth's moon.

Isaiah cast his eyes up to the stars. He looked up at the sky. Isaiah knew the distance between God and mankind. He understood the impenetrable barrier of sin. How can we be in relationship with a Holy God when our sin separates us from Him? No chance. But what if God breaks the barrier? What if God reaches out toward us? What if God finds a way into our very lives and souls? “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!” (Isaiah 64:1)

And then, one day, God did. This is the Wonder of Christmas.

Gathered together with your circle, in-person or online, open your time of study in prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide and guard your thinking and growing.

Understanding God's Word

What is Isaiah's great desire in verse 1?

In verse 6, how is sin personified? What do we learn about the consequences of sin from this passage?

What appeal is offered to God for mercy in verses 8 and 9?

Applying God's Word

Isaiah exclaims in verse 5 that “You (God) come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.” How can you better “remember the ways of the Lord” in your daily comings and goings?

How can your small group support you in your relationship with the Lord this week?

Witnessing God's Word

Think of someone near you who does not yet know the mercies of God. What barriers stand in their way? Give thanks to God that He “rends the heavens” in Christ Jesus and makes a way for His people. God is a barrier-breaking Savior, alleluia! Commit to joining God in His loving pursuit of the person you're thinking of by continuing to pray for this person and making one more action step toward them this week.