

INTRO

- When you think of the word *father*, what is the first image, memory, or emotion that comes to mind—and why?

As we continue our series *The Mission*, we're exploring the unfolding story of God's heart for the world and His invitation for us to join Him. Last week we looked at *The Father's Love*—the initiating heartbeat of mission. This week we turn to *The Son's Sacrifice*, seeing how Jesus reveals the true character of the Father. His life and death show us not only what God is like, but also how deeply He desires to bring light, mercy, and hope into the world.

READ

John 12:44-46
Philippians 2:5-8
Isaiah 6:1-8

[Leaders: Use the questions below as a guide, not a checklist]

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Jesus Shows Us the Father

Jesus doesn't give us a *new* picture of God—He reveals who the Father has always truly been: merciful, compassionate, restoring, humble, and deeply relational.

Qu: Where have your experiences with earthly father-figures shaped (or distorted) how you imagine God the Father?

Qu: Which characteristic of Jesus revealed Fatherhood most surprises, challenges, or comforts you?

2. The Son's Sacrifice—Humility in Life and Death

Jesus not only sacrificed in *death* but in *life*—becoming poor, taking on flesh, living among us, and serving. He lived among ordinary people, ate with them, entered their homes, touched the sick.

This reveals a God who wants to be known and loved personally, not served from afar.

Qu: If Jesus reveals the true heart of the Father—a God who moves toward the broken, takes on our condition, and serves—what aspects of that character might be especially hopeful or attractive to someone who feels far from God or unworthy of Him?

Qu: Where do you see people around you wrestling with hopelessness or uncertainty right now, and how could the story of a God brings light into darkness be good news to them?

3. Encountering God, Embracing His Mission

Isaiah encountered God's holiness, received mercy, and immediately volunteered for God's mission—before he even knew the assignment. This is the natural response of a heart transformed by grace. And if Isaiah responded this way after receiving a glimpse of God's grace, how much more should we—who have encountered the fullness of the Father's love in the finished work of Christ—offer ourselves freely and wholeheartedly to His mission?

Qu: What fears, hesitations, or attachments hold you back from fully saying, "Here I am—send me"?

Qu: Where do you sense God inviting you to join His mission in 2026—big or small?

PRAY

Close by praying together:

- For the Lord to shine his light into any places of darkness in our lives and our community. — take time to pray for friends, neighbours, family by name.
- For the Spirit to reveal any fear or attachment that keeps us from saying, "Here I am. Send me."
- That God would empower us to join his mission with courage and joy in 2026.