



Group Guide

Isaiah

July 21, 2024

Main Passage: Isaiah 40:1-31

Theological Theme

The more you know the character and nature of God, the more you will experience the comfort He brings.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some of the thoughts that keep you up at night or plague you throughout the day?
- ❓ When you feel stress or anxiety, where do you turn for help?

1. The Lord's Desire (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Isaiah chapter 40 moves from warnings of coming judgment to hope for restoration and deliverance. This passage gives hope and comfort that the Israelites greatly needed. Although the warnings of Isaiah earlier were serious and necessary, so was the comfort and encouragement that followed. The Lord is a God of comfort and desires for His messengers to speak comfort and blessings to His people. The concept of “speaking comfort” does not merely mean making someone feel better in the moment but gives focus to the goodness of the Lord on behalf of His people throughout the ages.

- ❓ What are some obstacles in the human heart to receiving the truth about Jesus? How has the Lord made “straight the way” (John 1:23) in your life?
- ❓ What are some ways we can practice “beholding” the Lord daily? Why is this important?
- ❓ Application: Where do you feel in need of deliverance right now? How can Isaiah's words bring you comfort, even if that doesn't mean immediate relief?

2. The Lord's Might (Isaiah 40:12-26)

God can do anything and has all the power He will ever need. He has might and authority over creation as the One who has measured the waters and the heavens. That alone should be enough to convince us that He can do anything, but Isaiah didn't stop there.

- ❓ How do you see the wisdom and intelligence of the Lord in creation? In your own life?
- ❓ What is the most powerful force you can think of in earthly terms? Consider that no matter what that thing is, it is insignificant compared to the Lord. How does this encourage you?
- ❓ Application: Consider the truth that God knows each star by name. What does this tell you about the way He knows you?

3. The Lord's Proclamation (Isaiah 40:27-31)

We don't only need to understand God's desire and His power, but we also must understand how this makes a difference in our lives. Too many times Christ followers stop short of applying what they know about the Lord. They believe these truths and understand them to a point but unless these truths are taken in and applied to our daily lives, we are missing the point. Isaiah answered the question: if God wants to deliver us and He can deliver us, will He choose to?

- ❓ When have you questioned if God saw what was happening with you or cared? How does the cross answer this question for us?
- ❓ How do we reject the power and strength of God when we rely on our own strength as sufficient?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need the Lord to renew your strength? How will you rely on Him to do so?

Conclusion

- ❓ What do you need to know or remember about the nature and character of God? How can you remind yourself of this regularly?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage one another to rely on the Lord instead of trusting in our own strength?
- ❓ Who will you share with about the goodness of God?