

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DECEMBER 14/15 | CHRISTMAS IN ISAIAH
THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR | ISAIAH 40

FOR STARTERS

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or raised questions?
2. If you could choose one struggle in your life to be resolved tomorrow, what would it be?

DIGGING IN

1. Having a sense of what was happening historically helps us understand the message of Isaiah 40. Ezra 1 would be a good place to start.
2. Read Isaiah 40:1-9. How does God's message of comfort hit you right now?
3. Read Isaiah 40:11-17. How is God described in these verses? Why do you think it's important to remember what God is like when living through difficult seasons?
4. Read Isaiah 40:18-26. In this description of idols, what stands out to you? It's been said that we make idols for ourselves when we turn good things into ultimate things. Do you agree? Can you think of any "socially acceptable" idols that we tend to exalt instead of God?
5. Read the complaint of Israel in Isaiah 40:27. Have you ever found yourself complaining that God isn't paying attention to you? How does the answer in verse 28 address that?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Isaiah 40:31 tells us to "wait on the Lord." Look at Romans 8:19-21 and Psalm 25:5. What does waiting look like for you right now?
2. Have you ever experienced a season of waiting or hoping for God's promise to be revealed? Describe your experience.
3. Waiting on the Lord implies that we stop striving in our own strength and trust God to bring His deliverance. Is there one activity you're doing that God is calling you to resist as you prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas? Share what's on your heart with the group.