



ISAIAH 40:1-5

GETTING STARTED...

The season of Advent is all about getting ready. Getting ready for the Christmas season often involves spending time decorating, wrapping presents, and baking cookies. Things that get ourselves ready for Christmas. And just as we take time to get ready, so God took the time to get his people ready for the coming of Jesus. Even as Isaiah had to warn the people about the consequences of their sin, he also comforted them with God's forgiveness. God told his people that a messenger would come to get them ready for Jesus, one who would make the way straight and clear so that they could hear the message of God's forgiveness in Jesus. As we get ready for this Christmas season, we want to make the way clear for many people to hear the gospel of Jesus.

READ THE TEXT: ISAIAH 40:1-5

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Take a look at the context of Isaiah 39. How does the comfort (vs 1) work together with the warning of chapter 39?
2. Trace this prophecy from vs 3 to Malachi 3:1, to Luke 3:1-9. How is this prophecy lead us to see our need of Jesus?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How have you felt the comfort of God in your life? Where has that been most evident? Where has it felt most absent? How can we focus ourselves on God's comfort in our life?
6. What are some of the biggest obstacles that people have about coming to faith? How can we answer them wisely to help them hear the gospel clearly?
7. How does the second coming of Jesus give us hope for the future?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word, Reflecting on the Sermon, and Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*