
FOR CONFERENCING

1. **Read Isaiah 40.** Why would the words of Isaiah 40 be words of “comfort” for the people of ancient Israel/Judah? In what way does Isaiah 40 speak about the return of the Lord to His people? When is this prophecy fulfilled (see Mark 1:1-3)? What comfort is it for you now to know that God’s glory has been revealed in Jesus, and will be revealed completely when Jesus returns?
2. **Read Isaiah 40:12-20.** What reasons do verses 12-20 give that God is incomparable to and superior to all of creation? How does human reason and understanding measure up to that of God’s (v 13-14; Col 2:3; Rom. 11:13; 2 Cor. 10:5)? How is this understanding a further comfort to you?
3. **Read Isaiah 40:21-26.** In what ways do you see God above all other powers in heaven and earth in verses 21-26? If creation shows God’s wisdom, power, and immensity then why do we sometimes think of our circumstances as bigger than God? What in verse 26 tells about God’s intimate knowledge of His creation? If God knows every star, what does He know about you (John 10:3, 27; Romans 8:30)?
4. Given all the reasons preceding verse 27 that God’s people should be comforted by His power and strength, why would they think their trouble is because of God’s neglect (v. 27)? Do you ever feel like God is unconcerned about your troubles? The promise of patient expectation for the Lord’s plan and working of our redemption comes with what Biblical promises (v29-31, see also Lam. 3:25- 26; 2 Cor. 12:8-10; 1 Thess. 1:10)?
5. **PRAY WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:** Consider those that you personally know who need the comfort of the Lord and assurance from Scripture. Pray for them. Ask the Lord how you might be that instrument of comfort in their life. Pray that God would work in the lives of our men and women in the upcoming Ladies’ Banquet and church Christmas Program. Pray for those whom you are trying to reach for Christ.