



Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort for God's People

- 1 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice of one calling:
"In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD ^[a] ;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God. ^[b]
- 4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
- 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, February 25

Big Idea: When we are faced with situations of desperation and desolation there is still hope

Opening Question: Describe a situation where you experienced hope?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- Read Isaiah 40:1-5

- Tom spoke about three types of hope that God offers:
 - The Hope of God's Comfort
 - The Hope of God's Coming
 - The Hope of God's Glory

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these three hopes did you connect with the most? Why?
2. Which of these three hopes did you struggle believing in the most? Why?
3. What sort of comfort did God offer Israel?
4. What sort of comfort do you need to receive or offer at this moment in your life?
5. The promise of God's coming means that we need to prepare a way for God to arrive, but that he also makes this way as he comes. What ways are you preparing for God to come to you? How are you seeing God make his own way to you?
6. How might you experience God's glory in the week to come?
7. Much of this study has been about personal reflection. Yet, Christmas is about God reaching out to us, sinners, far from Him. How are you reaching out at this Christmas time to others around you?
 - Invite someone to the Christmas services.
 - Share a gift or card with someone.
 - Invite someone to Christmas dinner with you.
 - Serve somewhere this Christmas period (childcare at the Christmas services is an ideal place).