

Discussion Questions

Isaiah 40vs1-11

“Certain comfort”

Opening: When might we be tempted to think God is about to give up on us?

For context, read Isaiah 39vs5-7

1. What is about to happen to Judah? How might these events make the people question God’s heart for them?

Read Isaiah 40vs1-11

Look at vv. 1-5: The forgiveness of the Lord

2. Given the context, why are vv. 1-5 such a wonderful comfort? How are they fulfilled in Jesus (for example, see Mark 1vs3)?
3. How might you use Isaiah 40vs1-5 to encourage a Christian who feels they’ve sinned too much for God to forgive them?
4. These verses are showing us the Lord’s plans for his people aren’t just about forgiving our sins, but also about coming to be with us. How does this make us feel? Does anything need to change in our thinking?

Look at vv. 6-8: The word of the Lord

5. How do these verses draw out the contrast between “all people” and the Lord?
6. How would this contrast be a comfort for Judah in Isaiah’s day? And for us today?

Look at vv. 9-11: The arm of the Lord

7. What do we learn about the “arm” of the Lord in these verses? Does anything surprise us?
8. Why is it such a comfort to know about the “arm” of the Lord, as we wait until Christ returns?