

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

Nov 2016

**Isaiah**

Holy Living

## Lesson # 13 Greatness of God, the Father

### INTRODUCTION

How does our political climate compare to that of the Jewish refugees whose land and holy city were in ruins?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

*Note: The tone of the second half of Isaiah immediately changes, looking forward to the future with optimism and celebration. What a refreshing break from the terror and judgment of the first half!*

#### **Read Isaiah 40:1-11– God is greater than our circumstances**

1. Why should the people be comforted, even though they have sinned? Vv 1-2; **Ezra 9:3, 1 Jn 1:9**
2. How has God prepared the way for future generations? Vv 3-5; **Matt 3:2-3**
3. How does the eternal nature of God provide comfort? Vv 6-8; **1 Pet 1:24-25**
4. What will God's peace look like? Vv 9-11; **Lk 4:18-19**
5. How can we be sure that what Isaiah says about God will happen? **Isa 46:9-10**

#### **Read Isaiah 41:1-25– God is greater than our fears**

*Note: The islands or coastlands that Isaiah refers to are the most distant nations from the holy land.*

6. Isaiah called Cyrus by name over a century before he was born (Isa 45:1). How will God use Cyrus for Israel? **Isa 41:25; Ezra 1:1-4**
7. If God can control unconverted kings and pharaohs, why are we afraid?
8. In spite of their past rebellion, what does God promise Israel? **Isa 41:8-13**
9. How will the desert become a garden? **Isa 41:17-20**

#### **Read Isaiah 43:8-25 – God's servants are honorable**

10. God chose Israel to be a witness. Of what were they a witness? 8-13 How does that apply to us?
11. The Israelites had no altar or temple to offer sacrifices, and yet God forgave and restored them. Why? What sins did He remember? Vs 25 How does God want us to deal with our sins? Vs 18; **Isa 44:22**

### APPLICATION

How does Isaiah's description of God's nature and character comfort you? **Isa 44:8; 22**

*Years ago, one of my (Warren Wiersbe) radio listeners sent me a motto that has often encouraged me: "Look at others, and be distressed. Look at yourself, and be depressed. Look to God, and you'll be blessed!" This may not be a great piece of literature, but it certainly contains great practical theology. When the outlook is bleak, we need the uplook. "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things ... for He is strong in power" (Isa 40:26).<sup>1</sup>*

*We do not study the Bible just to gain information. We come to Scripture to meet God. If we truly want to know God, you and I must look into the Word of God and listen to Him share what is in His heart. We must look beyond the darkness of our todays to catch a vision of the bright sunshine of God's promised tomorrow.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be comforted*. An Old Testament study. (106–108). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher's commentary* (385). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.