

# Life Group Discussion Guide

12.6.2020

## A New Dawn: Advent Series

Isaiah 40:1-5

**40** *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 wilderness prepare*

*the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.*

**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 people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

## **OPEN**

When you're tired or stressed, when you've had a tough day, where do you go for comfort? What do you reach for? (Ex. food, shopping, a Netflix binge, etc.)

## **NEXT**

Read Isaiah 40:1-5 together. God commissions an entourage to carry a message of comfort to a people who are living in captivity and exile. What tangible comfort does God offer to these people?

Which of these proclamations of comfort apply to our current circumstances? Which do you find to be personally comforting right now? Why?

Read John 1:19-23. Why does John the Baptist borrow from Isaiah 40 to describe "what he says about himself?" How does John see himself living into this calling of being "a voice of one calling in the wilderness" in his own day? How might this apply to us (the church) in our day?

What does it look like in our day to herald the coming of the Lord? How can we live in expectation of His coming? How can we prepare for His return? What does it look like in our day to "make straight in the desert a highway for our God?"

## **CLOSING**

What message of comfort do we have to share with those around us in a world that is so desperate for relief? How can this group, individually and collectively, go about tangibly sharing that message this week?

What can this group be praying over you or your family right now?