

## Community Group Study Guide

**Sermon Series** - Signposts

**Sermon Date** - Dec 6

**Sermon Passage** - Isaiah 40:1-11

### *Warm-up:*

1. What is the most exciting news you have received? Why was it so welcome?
2. What is the furthest you've ever run or walked? How did you feel at the end?

### **Read Isaiah 40:1-11**

1. This passage opens with the phrase "Comfort, comfort my people..." What does this say about the nature of God?
2. Do we typically view God as one that comforts and brings hope? Why or why not?
3. In verses 1 and 2, what image does the Lord use to assure people of their forgiveness?
4. In Isaiah's time, people would literally level the road a king was traveling on? Who is the king in verses 3-5? How would the people prepare the road for him?
5. Read Matt 3:1-3. Who is the one heralding the arrival of the King? Who is the king? What does this tell us about Jesus?
6. At the time this was written, the hearers of this message were in captivity. What would the message of verses 1-5 mean to them? What would it do for them?
7. We are captive to sin in our lives...what should the message of verses 1-5 mean to us? Does this give us hope?
8. Verse 8 states that "the word of God stands forever." What promises that were made to Israel are in view here?
9. In the same way, what do God's promises mean to you? Do you believe the promises of God last forever? How should this affect our relationship with God?
10. In verse 11, the Lord is referred to as a shepherd. What do you gather about the nature of God from this image?
11. Jesus is also referred to as a shepherd. What does this teach us about the nature of Jesus?
12. If he is the shepherd, what sort of sheep do you feel like? Lost? Hurt? Wandering? Content? Cradled? Why?
13. How can you prepare your heart for the arrival of Jesus? What areas in your life need leveling or shoring up?
14. What was God teaching you through this study? Is there anything in your life you need to change?
15. How can this group encourage and pray for you?