



## Group Discussion Questions

Foreshadow - Names  
November 26, 2017

**Group Discussion:** What was the first Christmas tradition you observed growing up? Get the tree, advent calendar, outdoor lights??? Did that experience feel like it started the Christmas Holidays? How?

Read: Isaiah 40

In Vs. 1-2 Isaiah is describing the end of war and the peace of Jerusalem which will then usher in vs. 3-5 which is the preparation for the arrival of Messiah. What do you think the picturesque description of mountains made low, rough becoming smooth and rugged terrain becoming a fruitful broad valley mean? Of what value would this be to the inhabitants of the land? Think about how hard it would be to grow a crop in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Isaiah then begins discussion in vs. 6-8 about how permanent God is and how transitory people are. He finishes vs. 8 with the permanence of God's Word. Why do you think God's Word, the Bible has been able to last and appeal to people generation after generation? What passages of the Bible are the most helpful or meaningful to you?

In vs. 9-11 Isaiah takes the strength of God and describes strength under control because God treats his people as a gentle shepherd treats their sheep. When you have nursing ewes a good shepherd knows he can exhaust them quickly because of their lack of strength. The sheep are valuable to the shepherd. How are we valuable to God? Does God's Word feel condemning, encouraging or a balance between the two to you? What's an encouraging passage?

Read the rest of Isaiah 40 and identify each question asked, first mark out the parameters of the question, where does it begin and where does the question end. Then look carefully at how Isaiah answers the question. Summarize each question in a short sentence, summarize each answer in a short sentence.

**Family Time:** Take your kids on a neighborhood or local park hike. Tell them about Isaiah's words, "He gives strength to the weary," Talk to them about how God strengthens them through good food, exercise, growing bigger muscles.

**Remember: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:**

Thursday, Dec. 21 @ 6:45p

Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 8:45a, 10:30a, 4p, 5:30p & 11p

A poster for Christmas Eve candlelight services at Gateway Church. The background is dark purple with golden bokeh lights. On the left, a gold-bordered box contains the word 'CHRISTMAS' in large, gold, serif letters, with 'AT GATEWAY' in smaller letters below it. Below the box, the text 'Christmas Eve candlelight services' is written in a gold, cursive font. On the right, a table lists the dates and times of the services, along with the participating groups.

THURS., DEC. 21	6:45p	worship band
SUN., DEC. 24	8:45a	chair & orch.
	10:30a	worship band
	4:00p	worship band
	5:30p	chair & orch.
	11:00p	worship band