



Study/Reflection Guide

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# SESSIONS OVERVIEW

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## **01. Entrusted with the Fear of God** .....

- The Message of Comfort (vv. 1-2)
- The Message of a Coming Glory (vv. 3-5)

## **02. Entrusted with the Good News of God** .....

- The Message of Man's Frailty (vv. 6-7)
- The Message of God's Faithfulness (v. 8)
- The Proclamation of the Good News (vv. 9-11)
- The Gracious Character of the Shepherd (v. 11)

## **03. Entrusted with Praying to God** .....

- Devoted Prayer is Not Optional (v. 2a)
- Devoted Prayer Includes Spiritual Alertness (v. 2b)
- Devoted Prayer Has an Unselfish Focus (v. 3a)
- Devoted Prayer Includes an Evangelistic Emphasis (vv. 3b-4)

*Students are encouraged to revisit your notes, the Scripture passages, and even the message recordings as you go through this guide. This guide is designed to be used either in a group setting or for personal reflection.*

# SESSION 1

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## Isaiah 40:1-5

1 “Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God.

2 “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received from the Lord’s hand Double for all her sins.”

3 A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

4 “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

# REFLECTIONS

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## **Entrusted with the Fear of God**

- The Message of Comfort (vv. 1-2)
- The Message of a Coming Glory (vv. 3-5)

## **Questions**

- In Isaiah 40, why does God choose to speak "comfort" to people who had repeatedly ignored His warnings?
- Dr. Hargrove mentioned that fearing God removes the fear of the world. What are some specific fears that you deal with?
- The message described God "raising up" and "lowering" entire nations like Babylon and Persia. How does God's power and sovereignty over nations change how you view your own future plans?
- If every job can be done for the glory of God, how does that change the way you view your current schoolwork or hobbies?

# SESSION 2

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## **Isaiah 40:6-11**

6 A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

9 Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news; Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

10 Behold, the Lord God will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him.

11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

# REFLECTIONS

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## **Entrusted with the Good News of God**

- The Message of Man's Frailty (vv. 6–7)
- The Message of God's Faithfulness (v. 8)
- The Proclamation of the Good News (vv. 9–11)
- The Gracious Character of the Shepherd (v. 11)

## **Questions**

- With the reality of man's frailty in mind, what are some areas of life where you are tempted to trust yourself or man over God's promises?
- How do you need to grow in your knowledge of the good news of the gospel?
- What are some ways you can share and proclaim the good news of the gospel?
- How should the reality of man's fading frailty and God's eternal faithfulness affect our decisions today?

# SESSION 3

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## **Colossians 4:2-4**

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

# REFLECTIONS

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## **Entrusted with Praying to God**

- Devoted Prayer is Not Optional (v. 2a)
- Devoted Prayer Includes Spiritual Alertness (v. 2b)
- Devoted Prayer Has an Unselfish Focus (v. 3a)
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## **Questions**

- What are the most common things that cause your mind to "wander" when you try to pray, and how can you "fight through" those distractions?
- Dr. Hargrove gave an example of praying Scripture back to God. Why is this an important part of prayer? How could you implement this practice into your time with the Lord?
- Dr. Hargrove warned that even "the best and the brightest" seminary students struggle with prayer. Why can prayer often be the first thing to fail?
- What is one practical step you can take today to make prayer as natural as "breathing" in your daily life?