Small Group Guide - "We Believe God Is King"

Isaiah 40:12-31

OVERVIEW

This week's sermon opened a six-week series on the Apostles' Creed, focusing on the first declaration: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." Using Isaiah 40 as the primary text, we explored four truths about God: no one compares to Him, He rules over all creation, He knows and sustains His creation, and He can be fully trusted.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Apostles' Creed is not a source of salvation. It is a tool that reflects the truth of Scripture, much like a mirror reflects light. Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone (Romans 10:9-13).
- God is the incomparable Creator. The vastness of the universe, with its billions of galaxies, exists by His breath and is held together in His hands.
- God rules over every nation and every leader. Political circumstances change, but God's throne does not.
- God is not distant. Though He is infinitely powerful, He is one step away from each of us.
- You are God's masterpiece. Above all of creation, God values you most (Ephesians 2:10).
- Those who place their trust in the Lord will find renewed strength (Isaiah 40:31).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening (Ice Breaker)

1. What is the most breathtaking thing you have ever witnessed in creation? What did it stir in you in that moment?

Digging In

2. The sermon described the Apostles' Creed as a tool that reflects the truth of Scripture rather than a source of power in itself. How does that distinction change the way you think about creeds, mission statements, or other statements of belief?

3. Read Isaiah 40:12-17 together. Isaiah asks a series of questions about who can measure, instruct, or be compared to God. How do these questions land on you personally? Do you ever find yourself tempted to give God advice or tell Him how things should go?
4. The sermon pointed out that out of roughly 40 kings in the Old Testament, only eight were described as faithful to God, and that political leadership could never solve Israel's deepest problem, which was a rebellious heart. How does that historical pattern speak to the way Christians should relate to politics and government today?
5. The pastor made this statement: "Do not let your spiritual outlook be swayed and influenced by what happens politically." How practically do you guard your heart and your faith in seasons of political tension or uncertainty?
6. Read Isaiah 40:25-26. God calls every star by name and not one is missing. What does it mean to you personally that the same God who knows every star by name has not forgotten you?
7. The sermon described God as "one step away" and referenced Psalm 139:7-10, which speaks to the truth that there is nowhere a person can go to escape God's presence. Have you ever experienced a season of running from God? What eventually drew you back?
8. Read Isaiah 40:27-31. The people of Israel were asking whether God saw their troubles and whether He cared. Have you ever felt that way? How did you work through it?

Reflecting on the Gospel

9. The sermon closed with the story of Hagar in Genesis 16, a woman who was misused and discarded, yet was seen and pursued by God. What does that story reveal about the character of God toward people who feel forgotten or overlooked?
10. The pastor said, "You are His masterpiece." Does that truth feel real to you right now, or is it something you struggle to believe? What gets in the way?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- **This week, look up.** Isaiah 40:26 calls God's people to look up at the stars as a reminder of His power and care. Spend time this week, even just a few minutes outside at night, looking at the sky and reflecting on the God who created it and who knows your name.
- **Examine where you place your trust.** Make a short, honest list of the things you tend to rely on for security, peace, or hope. Bring that list before God in prayer and ask Him to help you root your trust in Him above everything else.
- **Pray before you scroll.** The next time you open a news app or social media and feel your anxiety rising over political or world events, pause and pray before you react. Practice returning your eyes to the God who rules over the nations.
- **Memorize Isaiah 40:31.** Write it out, put it somewhere visible, and let it speak to you in moments of exhaustion or discouragement throughout the week.
- **If you have been running, take one step back.** The sermon reminded us that no matter how far you have gone, God is one step away. If there is an area of your life where you have been avoiding Him, identify it and take one concrete step toward Him this week, whether that is an honest prayer, a conversation with a trusted friend, or simply returning to His Word.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for His incomparable greatness and for the vastness of what He has created.
- Thank Him that His greatness does not make Him distant.
- Ask Him to renew the strength of anyone in the group who is weary or discouraged.
- Pray for boldness to share the gospel, as missionaries Micah and Randy are doing in East Asia.
- Pray for anyone in the group who may not yet know Jesus as Savior.