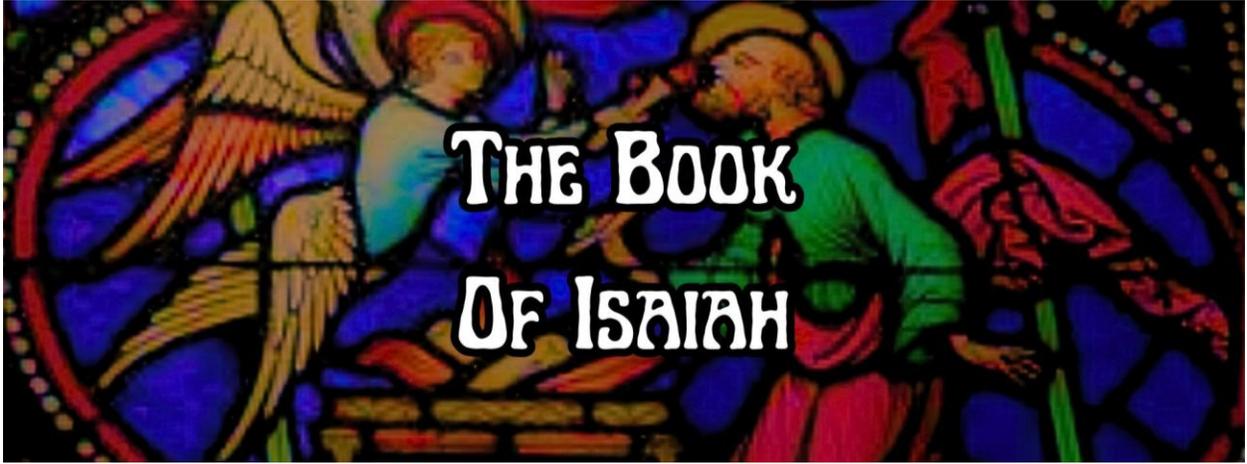


## Small Group Guide: "To Whom Will You Compare Me?"

Based on Isaiah 40-48



### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to reveal any idols in your hearts and to help you see Him clearly as the one true God who deserves all worship and praise.

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### Icebreaker Question

What's something you've memorized (sports stats, movie quotes, song lyrics, etc.) that surprised you when you realized how much space it takes up in your mind?

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### Key Scripture Passages

- Isaiah 40:21-28
  - Isaiah 42:8-9
  - Isaiah 43:10-13
  - Isaiah 44:6-8
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding God's Character

1. **God's Uniqueness:** In Isaiah 40:25, God asks, "To whom will you compare me?" What does this question reveal about God's nature? Why is it important that God is incomparable?
2. **God as Creator:** How does understanding that God created everything "ex nihilo" (out of nothing) change the way we view Him versus other things we might be tempted to worship?
3. **God's Declarations:** Isaiah 42:9 says God declares new things before they happen. How does God's ability to predict the future demonstrate His sovereignty? Can you think of prophecies in Isaiah that were fulfilled in Jesus?

### Examining Our Hearts

4. **Modern Idolatry:** The sermon mentions we may not worship carved wood, but we do give our time, attention, and worship to other things. What are some common "idols" in our culture today? What might be taking God's place in your own life?
5. **Attention and Worship:** The pastor said, "Whatever takes the time from you that should be given to God...is something you're putting on equal ground with God." How does this challenge your understanding of idolatry? What consumes your time that might be competing with God?
6. **Relationships as Idols:** The sermon warns that relationships can become idols when we have "puppy love or obsession or infatuation that takes that place that belongs to God." How can we enjoy relationships while keeping God first? What's the difference between healthy love and idolatry?

### Responding to God's Glory

7. **God's Exclusive Glory:** Isaiah 42:8 says, "My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols." Why is God so protective of His glory? Why is this actually good news for us?
  8. **The Gospel Connection:** How does understanding who God is (the first and the last, the only Savior) make the gospel more meaningful? How is Christianity different from other belief systems that tell you to "climb the ladder" to God?
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## Key Takeaways

1. **God is incomparable** - There is nothing and no one like Him. He is the uncreated Creator, the beginning and the end.
  2. **God alone deserves worship** - Anything that takes His place in our hearts, time, or attention is an idol that needs to be removed.
  3. **God came down to us** - Unlike every other religious system, God didn't ask us to climb to Him; He stepped down from heaven to save us through Jesus Christ.
  4. **The Trinity is the one true God** - Jesus is not a separate deity but part of the one true God who is Savior, Creator, and Judge.
  5. **We are precious to God** - Isaiah 43:4 reminds us that we are "precious in His eyes" and that He loves us.
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Idol Inventory

- Set aside 30 minutes for honest self-examination
- Track your time for 2-3 days (screen time, hobbies, work, relationships, God)
- Ask: "What am I giving more attention to than God?"
- Confess any idols you discover and ask God to help you reorder your priorities

#### Option 2: Scripture Memorization

- The sermon mentioned people who know sports stats but not Scripture
- Memorize one of these passages: Isaiah 43:10-11, Isaiah 44:6, or Isaiah 40:28
- Recite it daily and reflect on what it teaches about God's character

#### Option 3: Worship Realignment

- Identify one thing that has been competing for God's place in your life
- Create a specific plan to "dethrone" it (limit time, remove access, accountability)

- Replace that time with worship, prayer, or Bible reading
- Share your plan with someone in the group for accountability

#### **Option 4: Gospel Reflection**

- Spend time this week meditating on what it means that God "stepped down" to save you
  - Journal about or discuss with someone: "How does knowing God came to me (rather than me climbing to Him) change how I view my relationship with Him?"
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#### **Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling**

- What spoke to me most from this sermon?
  - What idol(s) did the Holy Spirit reveal to me during this discussion?
  - How have I been comparing God to created things?
  - What would change in my life if I truly believed "there is no God besides Him"?
  - How does understanding God's incomparable nature affect my worship?
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#### **Prayer Focus**

##### **Spend time in prayer together:**

- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal any idols and confess them
  - **Worship:** Praise God for who He is—the incomparable, first and last, Creator and Savior
  - **Gratitude:** Thank Jesus for stepping down from heaven to save us
  - **Petition:** Ask for strength to remove idols and keep God on the throne of your heart
  - **Intercession:** Pray for those who don't know the one true God
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### **Before Next Week**

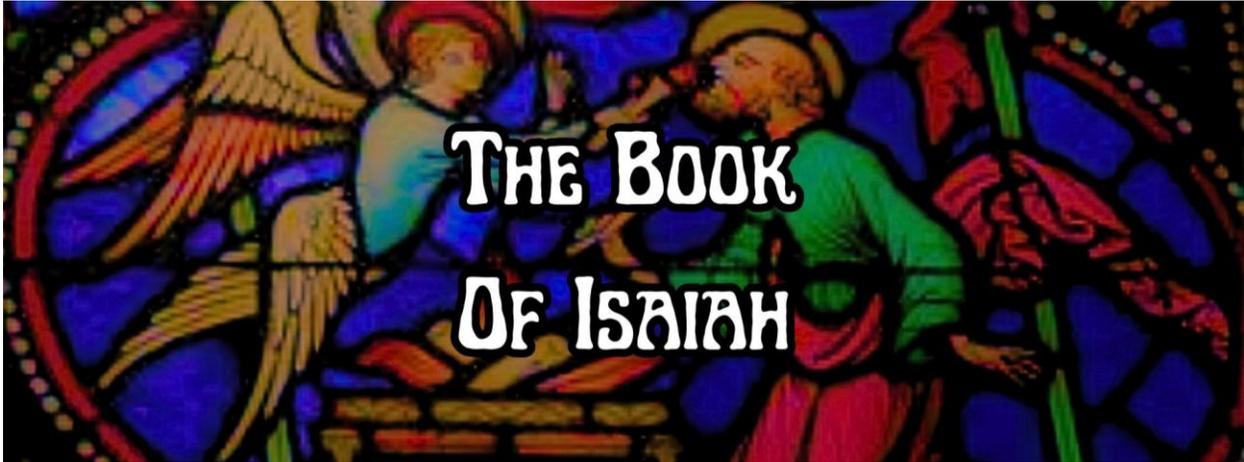
- Read Isaiah 53 in preparation for next week's discussion on prophecies about Christ's first coming
  - Follow through on your chosen practical application
  - Be prepared to share what God taught you through it
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### **Closing Thought**

*"To whom will you compare me that I should be like him?" says the Holy One. (Isaiah 40:25)*

The answer is: **No one**. Let's live like we believe it.

## 5-Day Devotional: To Whom Will You Compare Me?



### Day 1: The Incomparable God

**Reading:** Isaiah 40:21-31

#### **Devotional:**

God asks a question that echoes through eternity: "To whom will you compare me?" He sits above the circle of the earth, viewing its inhabitants as grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a curtain and never grows weary. In our world of constant comparisons—sports statistics, entertainment knowledge, relationship status—we often forget the magnitude of who God is. He created everything from nothing, knows the end from the beginning, and calls each star by name. Today, examine what competes for God's rightful place in your heart. What consumes your time, attention, and worship? The Creator of all deserves the throne of your life, not the carved idols of modern distraction.

**Reflection:** What has taken God's place in your daily attention and worship?

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## **Day 2: The God Who Declares History**

**Reading:** Isaiah 42:1-9

### **Devotional:**

God declares, "I am the LORD. That is my name. My glory I give to no other." What sets the one true God apart from every false deity and idol is His ability to declare new things before they happen. He speaks history into existence before time unfolds it. Through prophets like Isaiah, God foretold the coming Messiah centuries before Christ walked the earth. This isn't fortune-telling or speculation—it's sovereign authority over all creation and time itself. When you feel uncertain about tomorrow, remember that God already knows it. He has declared it. Your future rests in hands that formed the universe from nothing and can predict every moment before it arrives.

**Reflection:** How does God's knowledge of your future bring you peace today?

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## **Day 3: Precious in His Eyes**

**Reading:** Isaiah 43:1-7

### **Devotional:**

"You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you." These words from the Creator of the universe should stop us in our tracks. The God who needs nothing declares that you are precious to Him. He doesn't love you because of what you achieve, what you know, or how perfectly you perform. He loves you because He created you for His glory. He promises to gather His children from the ends of the earth, to be with them through fire and flood. Fear not, He says, for I am with you. In a culture that measures worth by productivity, appearance, or social status, God's love stands completely apart—unconditional, unchanging, eternal.

**Reflection:** How does knowing you're precious to God change how you see yourself today?

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## **Day 4: The Only Savior**

**Reading:** Isaiah 43:8-13

### **Devotional:**

"Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior." This declaration demolishes every competing theology and false hope. God alone saves. Not our good works, not our religious rituals, not our self-improvement efforts. The same God who spoke creation into being is the same God who stepped down from heaven, put on human flesh, and died on a cross for you. No other belief system offers a God who descends to save rather than demanding you ascend to earn favor. Christianity isn't about climbing a ladder to reach God—it's about God climbing down to rescue you.

**Reflection:** What are you tempted to trust in for salvation besides Christ alone?

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## **Day 5: The First and the Last**

**Reading:** Isaiah 44:6-8; Revelation 1:12-18

### **Devotional:**

"I am the first and I am the last. Besides me there is no God." When Jesus appears to John in Revelation, He uses this exact title: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last." This isn't coincidence—it's confirmation. The one true God is triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus is Yahweh, the great I AM, worthy of all worship. When you encountered Christ, you didn't meet a good teacher or moral example—you met the eternal God who existed before time and will reign after time ends. Everything that takes His place in your heart is an imposter. Remove the idols. Clear the throne. Give God the worship only He deserves.

**Reflection:** What needs to be removed from God's throne in your heart today?