

God of Hope, Isaiah 40 When you feel hopeless– 6/22/2025

Summary

In this powerful exploration of hope, we delve into the book of Isaiah and the story of Israel's exile to Babylon. We're challenged to reconsider our understanding of God's presence and power, especially in times when we feel hopeless. The central message reminds us that God is not confined to a physical place, but is omnipresent and always shows up, even in the most unexpected circumstances. As we wrestle with the question 'Where are you, God?', we're invited to reflect on the immense power of our Creator - the One who measures waters in His hand and weighs mountains on scales. This perspective shift can transform our approach to difficult seasons, encouraging us to trust in God's constant presence and ultimate authority, even when we can't fully comprehend His ways.

Series Foundational Scripture:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Key Takeaways:

1. God is not confined to specific places or situations. He is present everywhere. God’s response to us asking Him “where are you?” is always, “Right here!”
2. The Lord is. He has no beginning and no end.
3. God does not get tired or weary. When we do, and we give it all to Him, He gives us HIS strength.
4. We soar to gain God’s perspective, then given strength to endure hardships, so we walk with Him as our journey with Him has no end.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reflect on the story of the Israelites in exile. How might their experience of feeling abandoned by God relate to times when we feel hopeless?
2. The pastor emphasizes that "God always shows up." Can you share an experience where you felt God showed up in an unexpected way or place?
3. Isaiah 40 paints a picture of God's power and omnipresence. How does this portrayal of God challenge or comfort you?
4. How does the phrase 'The Lord is' resonate with you, and in what ways does it challenge your understanding of God?
5. Pastor Tim said “choose weak and weary.” What does this mean to you?
6. Does “soar,” “run,” “walk” seem backwards to you. Discuss what it means to soar then run, then walk.
7. What does it mean to you that your journey with Jesus has no end?
8. Why do you think God has us wait sometimes. What makes that different?
9. What makes placing our hope in God so powerful?

Practical Applications:

1. Memorize Romans 15:13 together as a group. Discuss how you can incorporate this verse into your daily life.
2. This week, practice looking for God's presence in unexpected places or situations.
3. When facing challenges, reflect on Isaiah 40 to remember God's power and authority.

4. Start a hope journal, recording instances where you see God showing up in your life.

Closing Prayer

Thank God for His constant presence and power. Ask for His help in recognizing His work in our lives, especially during hopeless seasons. Pray for an increase in trust and hope among group members.