

## Isaiah 41:1-20 Discussion Guide

### Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### Read Scripture

Read all of Isaiah chapter 41 together with a special focus on vs. 1-20.

### Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

**HEAR** stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

### Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

### Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

**Open:** Tell the group of a time that were really frightened as a child. What were the circumstances? What was the effect of this experience on you later on in life?

**Context:** "In the first 39 chapters, Isaiah addressed his 8<sup>th</sup>-century BC contemporaries. This section climaxed with the prediction of an exile to Babylon (39:6-7), which would end up occurring in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (586) when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took Israel captive. In chapters 40-55, Isaiah addresses those of this future exiled generation with words of hope. Through Isaiah, God comforts his people with the good news of his return as king to bring physical and spiritual redemption." (ESV Study Bible)

### Study:

- 1) When God called the nations to judgment, what did He claim He could do 41:1-4?
- 2) How does God describe Himself in vs. 4?
- 3) To whom would nations turn for strength (vs. 5-7)? How does it come into existence? Why did they turn to one another for strength?
- 4) To whom should Israel turn for strength (vs. 8-10)? Why?

- 5) What would the result be to Israel's enemies (vs. 11-13)?
- 6) How does God illustrate Israel's victory over her enemies (vs. 14-16)?
- 7) How does God describe His blessings for His people (vs. 17-20)?

**Apply:**

- 8) When you are confronted by your lack of ability to control your life, what do you turn to for comfort/care/security/stability (what is your default)? Why? How does this chapter encourage you to turn to Him instead of resorting to fear?
- 9) Are the words of comfort of God in verses 9-10 for all people? Why or why not? Are these words for you today? Why or why not?
- 10) Where do you see the gospel in this chapter? How does this encourage you to have hope even in the midst of difficulties instead of fear? How does this passage encourage you to share your hope with others?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God the He truly is the One who always keeps His promises.
- Take time to thank God that the disposition of His heart is to comfort His people.
- Take time to pray and ask for help to turn to Him during temptations to fear.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to share with others the hope you have in God.