



## Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: His Heart Yearns to Comfort You

Sermon Series: Fear Not: Gospel Truths for Anxious Times

**Introduction:** The title on the cover of the January 1, 2020 edition of Time magazine read, "The Age of Anxiety." Anxiety was a plague even before the pandemic and has only grown in the months since. Social unrest, economic uncertainty, political polarization, and the prospect of a winter surge have left many feeling weary, lonely, anxious, and afraid. God's word speaks into our chaos with one of the most frequent commands in all of Scripture: "Fear not." In this passage we begin by reflecting on God's desire to comfort His people in the midst of their anxiety.



### Into the Word

*The message of the prophets are like a mountain range, where its detail and depth are only perceived once you are upon their fulfillment.*

How would you describe God's character from this passage?

Why do you think Isaiah emphasizes the power of God in verses 1-5?

*Note: Notice how all the verbs are passive and not active.*

How would you rephrase verses 6-8 in your own words? Is this comforting?

Read Mark 1:1-11. Where do you see Isaiah 40:1-11 being fulfilled?



### Into the Heart

*All the glory of man will fade. Only God's Word will endure forever.*

Where do we often look for peace and security when we feel fearful or anxious?

What happens when we treat temporary glory as though it is permanent?



### Into the World

*The Lord has comforted us in our affliction so that we might comfort others with the comfort we have received.*

Do you think that Time Magazine is right, that we live in an age of anxiety? Why do you think we are being so deeply affected by our trials?

How can we comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God?

Consider: 1 Corinthians 1:4