

Lent - Holy Discussion Questions
2.28.16

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Make a list of ways that God is different than us.
2. What are some elements of who God is that you find compelling?

Background

Isaiah was a prophet to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem prior to the exile to Babylon. Isaiah 40 is often quoted and is a beautiful section of poetic prophesy that follows an exchange with Hezekiah. In the exchange Isaiah tells Hezekiah that there will come a time when all that he has and some of his family will be taken up to Babylon. Hezekiah's response was to be happy to hear that in his lifetime there would be peace. That statement is followed by the prophetic word about how God is separate from and better than humanity.

Read Isaiah 40:9-31

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What are some of the words Isaiah uses to describe God in verses 9 through 11?
2. What point is Isaiah making in verses 12 through 20?
3. What is the relationship between God and humanity as described by Isaiah in verses 21 through 26?
4. After all the critiques of the first 26 verses why do you think Isaiah ends this section with verses 27 through 31?
5. Why do you think Isaiah writes these words to a people who are experiencing exile?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. What about Isaiah's description of God and his relationship to humanity stood out to you? How does it move you to action?
2. When a person is in an exile type situation (pain, loss, uncertainty), why would these words be what God wants them to hear?
3. What does it look like for you to live into the reality that Isaiah describes in verses 27 through 31?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. The God that Isaiah describes in this section is holy and wholly different than us. What about your thinking or behavior should be changed in light of this truth?
2. Where do you feel like you are in exile?

3. If Jesus were sitting here right now, what sentence from this passage would he speak to you?
4. How do you feel lead to respond to what Jesus would say to you?
5. Who else do you know that needs to know that this is God's heart?

Closing

As the season of Lent continues to move us toward the dark day of Jesus death and the celebration of his rising spend some time together praying for the things in each others lives that cause you to stumble or grow weary. Now is the time to reflect on that truth that God is bigger and better than us and to find comfort in that reality.

Reminder: There is only one who is holy and he sent his Son to become man to die for us that we could be in relationship with him once more. It is to him we give all our everything.