



Part 1: Reconnecting With God

“Comfort, comfort my people” says your God. Isaiah 40:1

Why we feel distant from God:

- _____
- _____
- _____

4 Sources of Comfort When I Feel Distant From God:

1. The _____

“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” v2

2. The _____

A voice of one calling:

*“In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. v3
(See Matt. 3:3, Luke 3:4, John 1:14, 23)*

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. v4

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” v5 (See John 1:14)

3. The _____

A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. v6

The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. v7

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” v8
(See 1Peter 1:23-24)*

4. The _____

You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” v9

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. v10

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. v11

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today’s topic!

This week’s memory verse:

“And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Is. 40:5

Monday:

Read Isaiah 40:1-11. Think back over the sermon. Write down two new things you learned studying the passage in Isaiah.

Think about your relationship with God. What typically causes you to feel distant from Him - your choices, consequences or circumstances?

Which of the four points about God’s comfort means the most to you right now? Why?

As you enter the Christmas season how can what you learned help you keep your focus on God?

Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him for His comfort and peace. Commit the Christmas season to Him. Ask Him to help you keep your focus on Him and pray that your attitude and focus will be contagious to those around you.

Tuesday:

Read Psalm 103:8-12 & Isaiah 40:1-2. What encourages you most in these verses?

Write down three ways you can get comfort from knowing your sins are forgiven:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How can these verses impact your understanding of Christmas in the month ahead?

Thank God today for His forgiveness of your sins. Thank Him for the three ways you receive comfort from that truth. Ask Him to help you rest in His forgiveness and show that same mercy to people in your life this Christmas season.

Wednesday:

Read Isaiah 40:3-5. Isaiah was pointing to the coming Messiah (Jesus) hundreds of years before He was born. It is hard for us to imagine what the sense of anticipation must have been like.

How have you seen the glory of the Lord revealed in your life?

How does knowing that the Messiah has come give you hope and comfort? How can it impact your Christmas season?

Thank God today for the comfort of knowing that the Messiah has come. Thank Him for caring for you. Ask Him to fill you with awe of this truth during the Christmas season.

Thursday

Read Deuteronomy 32:45-47, Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:6-8 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What are some of the words used in these verses to describe the nature of God's word?

Think about the last few weeks of your life. How have you seen the importance of God's word personally?

Why do you think it's important to know that God's word does not change? How does this comfort you?

Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him for the eternal nature of His Word. Ask God to increase your faith in His Word. Pray that throughout the Christmas season you will be faithful to read the Bible and draw comfort and strength from it.

Friday

Read Isaiah 40:9-11. Note the descriptions of both God's power and his tenderness! How does knowing that God is all-powerful bring you comfort?

How have you experienced God's compassion in the last month? How has that impacted you?

How can the promise of God's compassion impact your Christmas season? How can it impact your relationships?

Thank God today for His amazing compassion towards you. Thank Him for the expression of that compassion in Jesus. Pray that your heart will be comforted by God's promise of compassion this Christmas season. Pray that you will reflect God's compassion to those you encounter this week.

Saturday

Review the memory verse for this week and finish any devotions you may have missed. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that our church will be a beacon of hope in the community this Christmas.