SMALL GROUP GUIDE
NOVEMBER 1, 2026

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

INTRO

Optional discussion starter: Who is the most hopeful person you can think of, real or fictional?

READ

Isaiah 40

DISCUSSION

1. Begin by getting some general responses to the message/passage.

2. Verses 1-2 open with “Comfort, comfort my people.” Why do you think God starts with comfort before anything else in this chapter? What does it tell us that the first words are about tenderness, and that the penalty for sin is described as paid?

3. Verses 9-11 hold two images of God side by side: a mighty ruler arriving with strength, and a shepherd who gathers lambs in his arms. Which image do you find easier to trust, and which do you tend to forget?

4. Verses 12-26 are a long series of questions about God’s greatness: who measured the waters, who taught him, who made the stars? Why might Isaiah use questions (and not statements) here? Which of these images of God stand out to you most?

5. Verse 26 says: “Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.” Has there been a time in your life when you have found hope and help by considering the glory of God’s creation?

6. In verse 27 and following, God addresses those who feel that He has disregarded them. In what ways do you feel this way right now?

7. Verse 31 indicates that God renews the strength of those who hope in Him. Why is it hard to hope in God? When have you found success in this? When have you not found hope?