

Discussion Guide
“*EXPECTANT: God Gets BIGGER Over Time*”
December 11, 2022



Big Idea

The longer we journey with God, the bigger He becomes to us.



Icebreaker

Share something (a place, or experience, etc.) that seemed so massive and impressive to you as a kid but when you revisited it as an adult it seemed smaller and/or less impressive.



Discussion Questions

1. Unlike what we talked about in the ice breaker, the sermon made the case that the older we get and the more we journey through life, the bigger God tends to get to us. Do you agree with that? Has that been your experience? If so, in what ways has He gotten bigger to you? What do you think are the 3 most critical things that one must possess, or do, to experience an expanding view of God?
2. In the context leading up to Isaiah 40 (Babylonian exile, etc) Israel must have felt as though things with God would never be right again. They likely felt that they had gone too far and were out of God's reach, this time. Was there a time you felt that way? Explain. Do you know others who seem to feel that way? How can you be of encouragement or help to them?
3. Read Isaiah 40:1-2. How did these words expand the bigness of God in the eyes of Israel? To help answer this, think about these words in view of all the judgement they were experiencing because of God's righteous anger at this time in their history. What are they now, through these words, understanding about the character of God & what He desires to provide them with? Is this something you need from God in your life today? Why? How can you put yourself in a position to receive it from Him?
4. Read Isaiah 40:3-5. What did these words show Israel, and show us today, about the action of our God? What kind of valleys & mountains & twists & turns did He have to navigate with you based on your past so that He could stick by your side? Are there reasons, or things you are doing today, that you just need to stop & turn from & turn back to He who is pursuing you passionately? What is stopping you from doing so?
5. Read Isaiah 40:6-8. The expanding view of God we get here is His forever & always nature. He has never not been and always will be. With that, what are some temporary things you are dealing with personally, or that bother you about today, that it is refreshing to think will pass just as Babylon did, while God and His Word, and eternal truths never will pass? What can you do in the meantime?
6. Read Isaiah 40:9-11. In the early part of these verses, we see God's power. But in verse 11, what aspect of God's character do we see? In other words, how does He feel about us?



Concluding Question

Through this sermon we saw that: God comforts us, is coming for us, outlasts us & our times, and cares for us. Which of these understandings did you need most to hear at this point in your life and why?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

With Christmas Eve Services approaching please pray that visitors will hear & respond to the Gospel!