

KEY TEXT: Isaiah 40:1-5

READY:

1. How has last week's sermon on 1 Timothy 1:12-17 affected your thoughts, actions, or attitudes?
2. What causes you to lose hope?

SET & GO:

Primary Text: Isaiah 40:1-5
Secondary Text: Matthew 3:1-3

Set *In Isaiah 40:1-2, we see an example of how God interacts with His people. From this, what do we learn about the character of God?*

Go Why is a correct view of God important as we fight against sin?

Set *Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. How is God described in verse 3? Compare this description with Isaiah 40:9-11.*

Go How does God's care for us move us to respond to others who are suffering?

Set *In Isaiah 40:3-5, God announces the good news of Israel's return from exile. What is the basis for this return?*

Go How have you seen God's grace in your life? Do you ever think that God's kindness to you is deserved?

Set *The deliverance of God's people is predicted in Isaiah 40. A portion of this text is quoted in Matthew 3:3. What type of deliverance did Christ bring?*

Go How does the gospel bring you hope when you are struggling with sin?

Set *Read Isaiah 40:9-11. What is the expected response to this good news?*

Go Is this your response to the gospel? Are you proclaiming it to others?

FINISH (on your own):

1. What sin in your life tempts you to lose hope? Which of God's promises are you not believing?
2. Do you find yourself relying on your own resources when trying to change, or do you find yourself relying on God?
3. Who do you know that is struggling with hope? How can you encourage him or her in light of Isaiah 40:1-5?