

# church AT HOME

santa barbara community church



*In this season of unusual rhythms of worship, fellowship, and study, we hope to provide some additional resources for your spiritual growth. It is our hope that even as we walk through uncharted territory we will discover anew our unchanging God in the pages of his Scriptures.*

## WEEK OF MARCH 22

Read Isaiah 40.

### Reflect and respond...

The passage begins with the words, "Comfort, comfort my people." Which aspects of this description of God provide you with comfort?

Look again at verses 6-8. These words were spoken to a people who had experienced exile and the cruel tyranny of Babylon. In light of that context, how might these verses contribute to the message of comfort for God's people?

Verse 8 insists that, “the word of our God endures forever.” Which of God’s promises is most resonant for you right now in our season of uncertainty? If you can’t think of any, consider reaching out to a friend to find out how they might answer this question.

Verses 12-26 give significant attention to the power and sovereignty of the Lord. What emotions are stirred in you as you read these verses?

At the end of this passage, verse 31 promises that, “those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” How are you seeking to fortify your hope in the Lord during this time?

Try to put yourself in the place of Isaiah’s original readers. How do you think they might have been compelled to live differently in light of the message of this chapter? How might the message of Isaiah 40 inform the way you live?

Old Testament scholar John Oswalt, reflecting on Isaiah 40, offers this timely encouragement: “[God] is aware of our distress and our captivity, our joy and our accomplishments, and he is able to come to us, sharing the joy and delivering us from our distress. He is great enough to be able to help, and he is near enough to want to help.”

## Prayer:

Write out a prayer of response to what you've considered about the character of God from Isaiah 40. Alongside praising God for his character, keep in mind various forms like confession, lament, and dedication.

## Scripture memory:

Consider memorizing Isaiah 40:9-11 this week. Perhaps you could work with a friend, coworker, housemate, or family member and encourage one another in this endeavor!