

Opening Question

How do you think God thinks and feels about you? What do you think is His primary emotion toward you right now? Why do you think you feel that way?

Read Together

Isaiah 40:18-26

Big Idea

What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

Discussion Questions

- 1) As you read the passage in Isaiah 40, what do you think God wants to communicate to His people Israel?
- 2) What point is God making about the gods or idols that we as humans make? (vv. 19-20)
- 3) What point is God making about rulers and kings – think of today’s political leaders – in relationship to Him? (vv. 21-25)
- 4) In God’s word here in Isaiah 40, He is calling Israel to rethink their relationship to and understanding of the gods of their culture and God Himself. Do you think we as Christians need to do this as well? Why?
- 5) Turn to Acts 17 and read the story of Paul on Mars Hill contained in verses 16-34. What point is Paul trying to make to the men of the Areopagus about their understanding of God?
- 6) What specific characteristics of God does Paul reveal to these men who do not know Him in what he says in verses 24-31?
- 7) Or any of those characteristics a surprise? Deep down, can you honestly say that the God that Paul describes is the God you believe in?
- 8) Are there any characteristics of God that you struggle with? Why do you think that is? What do you think you could do to clarify if the way you think about who God is actually true of Him?

Challenge

This week commit to spending time alone with God with specific time devoted to reading Scripture and praying (both talking and listening) to Him. If you have a regular pattern of reading Scripture, as you read keep asking this question: *What do these verses reveal to me about who God really is?* If you have no regular pattern of reading Scripture, start with these psalms to get you started: Psalm 100, 103, 105, 111 and 121. Then take time to talk with God about what you discovered about Him and how it intersects with your daily life. Ask Him to speak to you and listen for the Spirit to speak.

Prayer

As you close out your small group time together, take time to talk with God about what He’s has shown you about Himself through Scripture in this study. Ask Him how what you’ve discovered about Him intersects with your daily life. Take time to listen for Him to speak to you by His Spirit.

Next Step

The little book *Your God is Too Small* was written by the English pastor J.B. Phillips in 1961. The book is a prophetic call to rethink our view of who or what we identify and worship as God. Phillips spends the first half of the book deconstructing the illegitimate views of God we hold to, labeling each as an *unreal God*. This book helps us recognize our tendency to remake God into our own image - a God that we think will be more to our liking. It’s a challenging and spiritually helpful book that’s worth reading.