

## Comfort My People – Discussion Questions – Lesson 8

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Synopsis: Through Isaiah, God brought comfort to those who had been suffering. We, modern humanity, often falter in our Christian walk. Rather than being discouraged and confused, we can trust our Creator to use His power on our behalf. Let's discuss.

### Sabbath Afternoon – Introduction

1. The week's introduction referred to a soldier still active 27 years after WWII ended. What was the main factor in his being still at war?

### Sunday – Comfort for the Future

2. Read Isa 40:1, 2. What does it mean? Is this a change in tone from the previous portion of the book? Explain.
3. What promises from the Bible comfort you the most?
4. In Isaiah 40, God is represented in seven capacities: Comforter, Judge, King, Shepherd, The All-Wise One, Creator, and Sustainer. Which have you seen so far?

### Monday – Presence, Word, and Roadwork

5. Read Isa 40:3-5. What preparation is necessary for the Lord's coming?
6. Read Isa 42:16. What does it convey?
7. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What spiritual roadwork does it refer to?
8. Read Matt 3:2, 3. What does it tell us about preparation?
9. The phrase "God does it all" is often used in Christian circles. In a practical sense what does the phrase mean?
10. What hope can you, who fade away as does the grass, derive from Isa 40:6-8?

### Tuesday – The Birth of Evangelism

11. Read Isa 40:9-11. What kind of imagery do you see here?
12. You have before you an array of eager Bible students. What questions did you come up with as you studied?

### Wednesday – Merciful Creator

13. What are both answers to the question "To whom then will you liken God" in Isa 40:18-26?
14. What do you see in Isa 40:27?
15. Referring back to question 4, which of the seven capacities have you seen up to this time?

### Thursday – The Problem with Idolatry

16. Read Isa 41:29. How does Isaiah characterize idols?
17. The study guide summarized idolatry as *self-help religion*. Sounds familiar? In what other ways would you summarize modern forms of idolatry?
18. From the study guide: "Many who bear the name of Christians are serving other gods besides the Lord. Our Creator demands our supreme devotion, our first allegiance. Anything which tends to abate our love for God, or to interfere with the service due Him, becomes thereby an idol." – EGW. Is this quote sufficient?

### Friday – Further Thought

19. How does Isaiah's description of the permanence of God's Word versus the fragile transience of human life in Isa 40:6-8 speak to your fear of death?
20. Read Isa 40:28-31. How does this relate to you?