

Read the Gospel

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: Isaiah 41:10

The start of a new year brims with possibilities, and navigating through these possibilities can get tricky. Each of us will encounter new opportunities, unwanted adversities, numerous responsibilities, and times of uncertainty. One emotion that thwarts successful navigation is fear. Fear displaces confidence, increases stress, and floods our hearts with discouragement. Yet, in a world crowded with reasons to be frightened, discouraged, and negative, God gives us five certainties for courageous living from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. From Isaiah 41:10 we will discover that in God's economy we are never depleted. We are always teeming with a sense of God's presence. We can always be certain that God is bigger than we could ever imagine. We can count on the fact that God is unlimited in His supply. We can rest in the fact that God is always there to assist us. We can live courageously knowing that God's desire is to lift us up by the power of His righteous right hand, lead us to a place of refuge, and establish our steps, as we choose to delight in Him.

Pray for the Work of the Gospel

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise** God that He is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.
- **Repent** from any areas of doubt and unbelief.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you look past your fears and focus on Jesus.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit as you live courageously for God.

Engage in the Gospel

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.

- Talk about areas of fear or times of uncertainty in your life. How did you respond? How did God respond? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself or others around you?

Read Isaiah 41:10

- Discuss the context of Isaiah 41:10.
- There are five positive certainties in this one verse of Scripture.
 - **Fear not, for I am with you.**
 - Why is fear not an option for those who trust in the Lord?
 - What do you know about the character of God that would cause you to turn from fear and have faith?
 - What additional verses can you share with your group that refer to fear?
 - Jehovah Shammah means, "The Lord is There." Read Ezekiel 48:35 and Psalm 139. What do you learn about the Omnipresence of God from these passages?



- How does understanding that the Lord is always with you calm your fears and bring you peace?
 - What situation or decision are you facing today in which you need to know that the “Lord is There” before you embark on your new journey? Will you chose to trust His faithfulness to be *there* as He said He would?
 - Perhaps you are struggling with discerning God’s will. Will you choose to pursue God rather than pursue His will, knowing and trusting that as you seek Him, He will reveal Himself to you more fully? (See Jeremiah 29:11-14)
- **Be not dismayed, for I am Your God.**
 - The Hebrew word used for dismayed in this passage means *to gaze at or gaze about with reference to anxiety*. In others words, don’t be stressed! In what areas of life are you stressed?
 - Name practical things you can do to ward off stress and anxiety.
 - What is significant about “I AM”? (See Exodus 3:14). What do you know about “The Great I AM,” the self-existent, eternal, unchanging One, that could help you as you seek to “be not dismayed”?
 - Understanding who God is helps us comprehend how big He is. Have you seen God do big things in your life? Share them with your group.
- **I will strengthen you.**
 - The word strengthen in the Hebrew literally means “*to establish*.” Our limitations are met and exceeded with God’s limitless provision. Discuss this truth with your group.
 - Read about Gideon and his *Mighty Mean of Valor* in Judges 6. What did Gideon learn about God in this passage?
- **I will help you.**
 - When have you experienced God’s helping hand in your life? How has God reinforced you in the midst of a battle?
- **I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**
 - Who sits at the right hand of the Father and intervenes on your behalf?
 - Read Psalm 37:23-24. What provision and promise do you see in these verses?

Live the Gospel

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.

- Who do you know that needs the hope of Isaiah 41:10? Will you share it with them this week?

