

Isaiah 40:6-31

29 December 2023

ICE BREAKER: Describe something that amazes you in nature or in the animal kingdom.

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 12) A.W. Tozer declared, “**What comes into our minds when we think of God is the most important thing about us.**” Tragically, the problem that plagues humanity is that our **view of God is too small.** God is huge! He is awesome, great beyond description.

For example, the distance between here and the sun is 93 million miles. Now, look at the thickness of the side of this piece of paper. Imagine the thickness of this sheet of paper representing the great distance between here and the sun.

The size of the known universe would be 31 million miles stacked high of this sheet of paper! Now, here is the extraordinary word from Isaiah as he speaks of God, “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with **the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?**”

Isaiah is saying our God can cup his hand and hold the entire, vast universe.

1. As you consider creation and the **universe**, describe **one thing** that **amazes you** about **God**.

(Read verses 15-18, 23-25) Isaiah challenges us, “To whom, then, will you **compare God?**” We often think of the great empires in history and recount their splendor and power in world affairs. Isaiah says this about the greatest empires, “Before Him all the **nations** are as **nothing.**”

Isaiah then presents the next powerful force that seeks to control our lives—the rulers and dictators of human history. How do they compare to God? “He...reduces the **rulers** of this world to **nothing.**”

Consider how a government affects our daily life by its laws and power. Consider how influential people affect us at work, school or home. Isaiah says that if God is greater beyond measure than any ruling empire or powerful person in our life, should we not trust God alone to direct our daily life?

2. When facing a **powerful person** or **crisis**, what helps you keep them or the situation in **perspective?**

(Read verse 10-11, 29) Isaiah has surveyed the greatest and most powerful realities of life: the universe, great empires, and powerful rulers. Compared to Almighty God, they combined are nothing, less than nothing. The Creator is greater than the sum of His creation.

The good news is that **Almighty God** is also a **gentle Shepherd** who desires to carry us close to His heart. Almighty God wants to give us His power to strengthen us when we are weary or weak.

3. What is **one area** in your life where you are **weak** or are **weary** and **need God’s power?**

(Read verses 30-31) There are **areas in our lives** where we will **grow tired** and **weary**, even **stumble** and **fall**. However, Almighty **God**, our Gentle Shepherd, **offers us His power** to overcome.

As James MacDonald states, God will give us power to soar like eagles over temptations others fall into. For struggles we cannot fly over, but must **run through** for a **season of our life**, God will us give power to **not be weary** and to overcome. Finally, for struggles we cannot fly over, nor run through, but must **walk with the rest of our life**, God will give us power to **walk it out** and **not faint**.

4. In which of the three do you **need God** to **strengthen** you most, **a temptation to soar over**, **a season of a struggle** you must **run through**, or a **life long condition** you must **live with?**

Cut along Dotted Line & use Notes as Book Marker

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those, in your group, plan to witness Christ to this week.)
