

Prepare the Way...For Hope!

Text: Isaiah 40:1-5

November 29, 2025

Big Idea: Hope is found in God alone, so trust in Him alone for it.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2

- a) What is the season of advent and why is it important practically?
- b) What are the four themes of advent, and what is their theological importance for us today?
- c) What are you most tempted to be distracted with this season that takes your eyes, mind and heart off of Jesus? What happens as you are distracted from Him?
- d) What are two steps you will take this advent season to make it different than previous ones (individually and/or as a family)?

Because Hope is found in God alone, we must trust in...

Point 1: His WORD of Hope: "I will FORGIVE!" (vv. 1-2)

Question: Sin is our hindrance to hope and only God can forgive. Will you believe this?

Question #3

- a) **Rd vv. 1-2:** What attributes of God are on display in these first two verses?
- b) Which of these attributes do you struggle to believe in the most when you sin? Why?
- c) Why is our sin a hindrance to living in the hope and comfort that we can have in Jesus?
- d) In spite of their sin, why did the Israelites (and us today) have a reason for hope?
- e) "Only Jesus can handle your hope". Discuss why this is true and its implications for you this week.

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Point 2: His WAY of Hope: “You must REPENT!” (vv. 3-4)

Question: The way of hope runs through repentance. Will you turn from your sin?

Question #4

- a) **Rd vv. 3-4:** What does God command His people to do in v. 3?
- b) What does God mean when He commands them to ‘prepare/make straight’ a highway for God?
- c) What picture for sin in our heart does God use as an illustration that hinders our hope? Do you think of your sin (even ‘small ones’) this way? Why or why not?
- c) Based on this truth, why does the road to hope always have to run through repentance for the unbeliever? For the believer?

Question #5

Note: Please use your fruit to root diagrams for this question.

- a) What ‘boulders’ of unrepentant sin are currently hindering the highway of God in your heart?
- b) What worldly treasure are you idolizing by cherishing that sin and not repenting of it?
- c) What gospel treasure are you not believing in, that causes you to hold onto that?
- d) What hope of the gospel are you forfeiting in both your **thinking** and your **actions** because of your ‘boulder’ of idolatry?
- e) Spend time together repenting of each level of those sins (Behaviour, thoughts and root), and asking the Lord to prepare the way in your heart for Him to empower you with His hope this Christmas.

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Point 3: His WORK of Hope: “JESUS will Come!” (v. 5)

Question: Jesus is God’s promised hope for the world. Will you believe in Him?

Question #6

- a) **Rd v. 5:** What does God promise to those who repent of their sin and set their hope in Him?
- b) What is the glory of God?
- c) Who was the greatest display of God’s glory and had all His attributes perfectly summed up in Him?
- d) How do you want God to grow you this Christmas in the revelation of His glory through Jesus?
- e) What unbelievers has God put around you to witness to and invite to the Christmas service, that they too can behold the glory of Jesus?
- f) Spend time in prayer as a group praying for your own hearts and the hearts of those you will invite to the Christmas service.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Isaiah 40:1-5...**

- a) **ADORATION:** Lord, I worship You because you are_____ .
- b) **CONFESSION:** Lord, I repent of my sin of_____ that hinders me from knowing You and loving You.
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Jesus, thank You that in You, I can live with hope even when_____ .
- d) **SUPPLICATION:** Jesus, I ask: i) You would help me trust Your Word when_____ ii) I would be quick to repent of sin when you reveal it iii) For greater faith in You when_____ .

Memory Verse:

“A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; may straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”-Isaiah 40:3

MERRY CHRISTMAS HOPE OTTAWA! YOU ARE LOVED VERY MUCH!