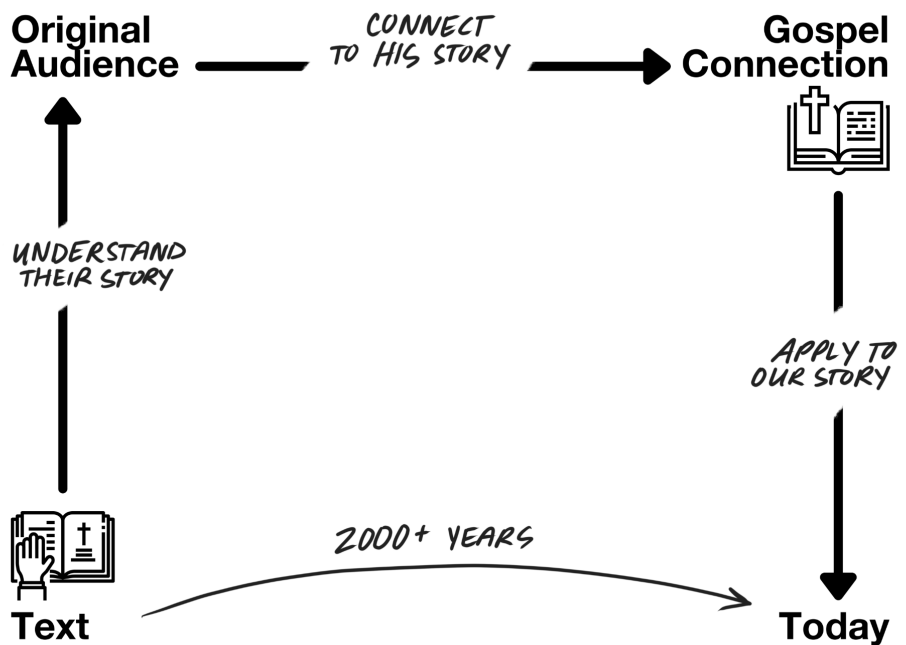


# SEPTEMBER DEVOTIONAL GUIDE 2021

Isaiah 40:1-11



## DAY ONE | UNDERSTAND THEIR STORY

- Read Isaiah 40:1-11
- What clues do you get in the text about what the original audience is experiencing?
  - What do they need, according to God? (v 1)
  - What have they experienced? (v 2)
  - How are people described? (v 6-8)

*Pray in Supplication. Ask God to sustain you and encourage you in the midst of your own frailty.*

## DAY TWO | UNDERSTAND THEIR STORY

- 2 Kings 17:1-6 explains the historical background behind the words in Isaiah. What has happened to the nation of Israel according to these verses?
- In 2 Kings 17:7-18, the narrator explains why God allowed the Northern Kingdom to be destroyed by Assyria. What reasons are given?<sup>1</sup>
- Re-read Isaiah 40:1-11 and the answers to yesterday's questions to refresh your memory regarding what God's people are experiencing. What do you understand now about yesterday's reading that you didn't before?

*Pray in Confession. This text teaches that God is not to be mocked; He will eventually punish those who willfully disobey Him and refuse His way of salvation. Is this you? Search your hearts for unrepentant sin which may lead you away from Him.*

<sup>1</sup> Approximately 700 years earlier, people were warned of this possibility. If you want further reading, check out Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-18, 64-68.

### **DAY THREE | CONNECT TO HIS STORY**

- Read Isaiah 40:1-11
- What words or concepts in this text convey information about God's ability and willingness to save His people?
  - Who will come and travel on the way / the highway? (v 3)
  - What will happen when this person appears? (v 5)
  - How does God compare Himself to His people? (v 6-8)
  - What hope is communicated? (v 9)
  - What contrasting & complementary pictures do you see of God's ability and willingness to save in verses 10-11?

*Pray in Adoration. What can you praise God for today, based on what you've learned in these verses?*

### **DAY FOUR | CONNECT TO HIS STORY**

- Luke 2:25 alludes to Isaiah 40:1-2.
  - Read Luke 2:22-35. What is happening in this text?
  - What event was Simeon waiting for in Luke 2:25?
  - How is Isaiah 40:1-2 fulfilled in Luke 2:22-35?
- All of the gospels quote Isaiah 40:3-5 (see Matthew 3:1-3, Mark 1:1-4, Luke 3:1-6, and John 1:19-23)
  - Who is "the one calling"?
  - Who is "the one calling" making the way for?

*Pray in Adoration. God kept his promises to comfort, and to reveal himself in Israel by sending his son, Jesus to earth. Praise God for his plan of salvation!*

### **DAY FIVE | APPLY TO OUR STORY**

- Read Isaiah 40:1-11, and review your answers for Day 1 & Day 2.
  - Although we are not experiencing life in exile, what common human experiences do we share with those to whom this text was written?
- Read Isaiah 40:1-11 again, and review your answers for Day 3 & Day 4.
  - What encourages you most today as you consider God's ability and willingness to save, in light of the challenges you are currently facing?
- Adoration / Confession / Supplication