

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 13th November 2016**

Going deeper

Paul's writing in 2 Corinthians often echoes passages from Isaiah 40-55. These chapters are written for Israel in exile in Babylon (Isaiah 39:5-7) and offer God's promise of deliverance.

Read Isaiah 40:1-11

6. What is the fundamental message that exiled Israel needs to hear?

7. Comfort is 'a coming alongside to speak words of encouragement and support'. How is this idea reflected by the prophecy in vs. 3-5? How was this fulfilled in Christ? (Mk. 1)

8. How do verses 6-8 offer comfort?

9. What is the 'good news' in verses 9-10?

10. How is God described in verse 11? How does this link to and develop the idea of 'comfort'?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...

Growth Team News

This week in Growth Teams we start studying the letter of 2 Corinthians. It is a letter where Paul speaks in deep ways of his own life and ministry, which is often marked by weakness and suffering. The book is a great tonic for us all.

Whilst the daytime Growth Teams are continuing as normal, there are no evening Growth Teams this term. However, our Old Testament Course with Robin Plant starts this Tuesday in church at 7:30pm.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

The God of all Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:1-11 (page 1158)

Space to take notes on the talk

How do you deal with _____?

Know you are _____

Know what _____

Share _____ with others

Starter question

- ❖ Give an example of a time when you experienced someone's comfort at a difficult time in your life.

Responding to the talk

1. What – if anything - did you find most helpful from this week's talk?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-2
 - a. What identity do Paul and the Corinthians share?
 - b. How does Paul present his relationship with them?
 - c. How is the description of God in verses 2 and 3 distinctly Christian?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
 - a. What does Paul praise God for?
 - b. How do Paul's troubles benefit the Corinthians?
 - c. In what way does our suffering and comfort link with Christ?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
 - a. Read Acts 19:23-31. How would you have felt if you were in Paul's place? How did Paul feel?
 - b. What lesson did Paul learn from his traumatic experience?
 - c. What positive might come from the Corinthian prayers for him?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. How might what we've learnt help us when we go through difficult times?
11. Someone we know is going through a difficult time. From what we've learnt from this passage what might you do to support them?