



## PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

### Lesson 1: God's Compassion For And Call To Israel—Isaiah 40; 52

#### ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

*How is this God's story?  
How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?  
How is this the world's story?*

#### PRAYER

*Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore;  
those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.  
Everyone lies to their neighbor;  
they flatter with their lips  
but harbor deception in their hearts.*

*May the LORD silence all flattering lips  
and every boastful tongue—  
those who say,  
"By our tongues we will prevail;  
our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?"*

*"Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan,  
I will now arise," says the LORD.  
"I will protect them from those who malign them."  
And the words of the LORD are flawless,  
like silver purified in a crucible,  
like gold refined seven times.*

*You, LORD, will keep the needy safe  
and will protect us forever from the wicked,  
who freely strut about  
when what is vile is honored by the human race.*  
(Psalm 12)

#### WEEKLY PRACTICE

We all have relationships with people that tend to steal energy from us. You can often minimize their influence over you so you feel refreshed and able to make a greater impact in the world. Make this next week a time of adding and subtracting by eliminating the things that don't belong and reclaiming the things that do. For example:

- Add a new conversation to your day with someone you encounter often but have never taken the time to know better.
- Subtract any email and/or texting that you can't keep up with.
- Add some down-time to your day where you can enjoy God without words, even if it means turning off the radio in your vehicle or taking a little longer in the shower.
- Subtract any television shows, movies or music you let be a part of your life that has values you would kick someone out of your house for if they did it in person.

By simplifying your commitments in this way you will be more likely to remember what's essential and live your life with a greater prophetic purpose.

## BECOMING MY STORY

*Isaiah 53*

*1 Peter 2*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. In the context of Isaiah 40 and 52, consider the following questions:

*What are the little things I let build up and distract me from my relationship with God?*

*In what ways is God asking me to be someone who guides others around me into a deeper relationship with him?*

Consider other passages you might know related to Isaiah 40 and 52 and read them this week, journaling as you go.