



When God Goes Dark :: Andy Stanley

INTRODUCTION

We all get weary. At some point in our Christian life, we just get tired of being good. After all, it seems like nobody else is, so why should we be? We try to have high moral standards. We do the right thing the right way only to watch others get ahead of us. At some point we all think to ourselves, *When is God going to come through?* If you've already experienced this, or are experiencing this now, listen to what God had to say to weary people through the prophet Isaiah.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When in your life have you felt weary? Do you feel weary now?
2. What do you hold onto during those times? From where do you draw strength?
3. Read Isaiah 40:12-26. When we become weary we often lose sight of who God is and what he has done. We become laser-focused on our present circumstances. How can we step back and refocus on who God is and what he has done?
4. Read Isaiah 40:27. Though we know that God is "all-seeing," we often feel as though he doesn't see "us." Has there been a time where you felt like God was unaware of your situation? Do you feel as though there is an area of your life that God is unaware of now?
5. Read Isaiah 40:28. Why would we not trust the everlasting God? Why are we tempted to abandon him and work out life on our own?
6. Read Isaiah 40:29-31. What kind of strength does God give to the weary? Have you ever experienced this?
7. What would it look like in your life for you to hope in the Lord?
8. Read Galatians 6:9. What happens when we live as though God is active and present, even when it doesn't seem like he is active and present? What would happen if we were to lose our hope in him?

THINK ABOUT IT

How has God displayed his faithfulness in your life? What are the evidences of his presence that you can hold onto when it seems like he is not there?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week read through chapter 40 of Isaiah every day, out loud if you can. At the end of reading the chapter, ask God to renew your strength.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9