



Life isn't meant to be lived alone...

This Home Group Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however, we encourage you to check out one of our warm and friendly Message-Based Small Groups.

LESSON AIM: To help you and your group focus on God's gifts that give us victory even though we might feel defeated.

connect ----- 15 min.



PRAYER: Begin your time with prayer. We encourage you to quiet yourself, acknowledge God's position, and ask God to open your mind and heart to the lesson aim for today.

ICEBREAKER: When you are down in the dumps, what favorite things do you like to think about to lift your spirits? How does it help? Or not?

grow ----- 60 min.



KEY VERSE: "The angel spoke to the women. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen.'" **Matthew 28:5-6 NLT**

1. The topic for Easter Sunday's message in our Hope Rising series was, "I can be victorious when I feel afraid." Share the best part of Ron's message about how the Lord will always be with us, give us strength and secure us in His arms.
2. Please read Isaiah 40:10-31. Jesus comes as a Shepherd, as well as a King. How can you "prepare a way" in your life for the coming of Jesus to you? Right now, what sort of lamb do you feel like: Cradled? Content? Wandering? Caught? Lost? Explain. How do the words from verses 10-11 comfort you?
3. What is the intended effect of all these rhetorical questions (12-17)? In each of these comparisons (creation, knowledge, the nations; even today's superpowers), how does God fare? Is any image or standard of comparison adequate to measure God's worth (v18-25)? Why or why not?

4. What is the complaint of the exiles (v27-29)? What must they learn about God in order to be restored? What sort of complaints do you hear from non-Christians today? From Christians? How might you answer them from the truths of these verses?
5. Practically and theoretically, how does one "soar like an eagle" (v31)? Compare verse 31 with Deuteronomy 32:10-11. How is learning to hope in God like a fledgling bird learning to fly?

f This would be a fun question for the family to research about how birds soar. How does this relate to parents leading their young and to children learning to mature?

serve ----- 15 min.



Have you ever felt God lost your address or phone number? Share the story. What fears and thoughts arose in your mind? How might the trust in God's power, presence and promise from these passages help restore you?

reach ----- 10 min.



How has God "caught" you when you have fallen instead of flying like an eagle? In what way is the Lord teaching you to fly right now? Now is the time to meet with your accountability partner and comfort and encourage each other to soar.

worship ----- 15 min.



Praise be to God that He is the uplifting wind under your wings that helps you fly high. Pray for the blessings that only God can provide by His almighty power. Move on to pray for the needs of group members.

Ask your leader to share the "Twin Cities 12" Prayer requests and consider praying for those needs during your personal and/or group prayer time.

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f denotes a question you could discuss with your family around the dinner table.