

## Lesson #8 Deliverance from Captivity - Isaiah 40:1–31; 42:1–25; 44:1–28

### **DRAWING NEAR**

1. What brings you comfort when you're feeling low or when you are in a difficult situation?

### **UNLEASHING THE TEXT**

1. What are some specific promises of comfort and blessing mentioned throughout these chapters that caught your attention?
2. Isaiah 42 contains a prophecy about the Messiah. How do the first nine verses point to Jesus?
3. How does Isaiah characterize idols and idolatry in this section?
4. What are some similarities and differences between God's use of Cyrus, a foreign king, and the Messiah to accomplish His will?

### **REFLECTING ON THE TEXT**

1. What temporal, short-term solutions do people look to for comfort?  
How does God's comfort differ?
2. What are some of the ways God's people receive comfort and care from Him?
3. What comfort and assurance did God's people draw from Isaiah's prophecies regarding Messiah?

On this side of the cross, how do believers draw similar comfort from Isaiah's words?

4. Where do you see idolatry at work in the world today?  
In your community?

### **PERSONAL RESPONSE**

1. How can you actively turn to God and seek out His presence when you need comfort?
2. What are some steps that you can take this week to identify any possible idols in your life?