

**Monday:** Review Sunday's notes. This week we begin Act 2 of God's unfolding drama. A new exodus is about to take place. Isaiah 40-55 represent the crowning maturity of the faith of Israel. Throughout these chapters good news is spoken to a people who have been "sitting in darkness." In the passage today we learn how God is about to act once again to deliver His people. This time it will be from their exile to Babylon.

**Scripture:** Read Isaiah 40:1-11

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**Journal Questions**

1. How would Isaiah's message affect you if you were one of these defeated people torn away from your home, your faith, and your way of life?
2. How can you "prepare the way" in your life for God?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray for someone you know who has been "sitting in darkness." Pray for the light of God to shine upon them.

**Thursday:** This passage is known as the suffering servant song. It makes the astonishing testimony that God chooses the way of humiliation, suffering, rejection and defeat to make known divine glory and triumph in the world. And this is the truth which is fulfilled and "made flesh" in the New Testament.

**Scripture:** Read Isaiah 52:12-53:13

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**Journal Questions**

1. What was the purpose of the suffering servant?
2. The New Testament freely applies this song to Jesus. What insights do you gain about the mission of Jesus from this song?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that those who are suffering may experience God's presence close at hand.

**Tuesday:** *In this passage Israel's calling is restored and given a clear focus. They have a unique role to play as God's people in the world. Amazingly, these exiled and defeated people shall be a light to all the other nations.*

**S**cripture: **Read Isaiah 42:5-17**

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**Journal Questions**

1. What feelings surfaced as you read this passage?
2. Verse 5 reminds us that God is the creator of all and source of life. What new thing might God want to do in your life or our world?

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that you might trust God enough to do the new thing you identified in question 2.

**Wednesday:** *One of the central themes of the prophet's message is the novelty of God's action in history. Life is caught up in a purposeful movement of historical events that are new, unique, and unrepeatable. Note the allusion to the Exodus in verses 16-17. What God is about to do is described using the themes of the Exodus. This will be a new exodus.*

**S**cripture: **Read Isaiah 43:14-21**

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**Journal Questions**

1. When should the past be forgotten? (see verse 18)
2. What "stream in the desert/wasteland" is bubbling up for you now?

**Prayer Focus**

Release any past offense, grudge, disappointment, failure into the hands of God. Let God free you of the "drag" the negative past is having on your present – let God free you for a new future.

**Friday:** *This chapter sound the theme of unconditional pardon and grace. A free-for-all invitation is given to God's banquet table. This covenant of grace, which is central to the gospel of the New Testament, does not relieve human beings of responsibility. Rather, it provides the motive for turning from evil ways and unworthy thoughts and returning to God whose mercy is immeasurable and whose ways exceed human comprehension.*

**Scripture:** Read Isaiah 55:1-13

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**Journal Questions**

1. How does the question in verse 2 strike you?
2. In light of verses 6-7, would you say you have been seeking the Lord or hiding from him this week.

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that you may focus on first things first, today.

**Saturday** – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.

# Transformation Journal

**October 11**

Daily Devotions for the week of October 11, 2009