

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

- Does your family have any traditions for preparing for Christmas? How have you found them helpful?

LEARN & APPLY

Read Isaiah 40:1-11

- (1-2) Have you ever had to discipline a child and then found yourself comforting them afterward? What does this tell us about God's heart?
- (3-5) This passage is all about obstacles. Where are we asked to address these obstacles? Where are we just hearing a proclamation of what God will do about these obstacles? How do those who had been in exile picture the 'mountains' and 'valleys' that were in the way? What do you imagine standing between you and the Lord's approach toward you today?
- (6-8) Why do you think this comparison between God's solidity and our frailty is important here?
- (9-11) What is the good news proclaimed here? What are God's actions that he takes in these verses? How does this comfort or inspire you?

Read Mark 1:1-4

- In light of what you just read in verses 9-11 in Isaiah, what parallels do you see with Mark 1 about good news?
- (4) What does the ministry of John the Baptist have to do with preparing the way for the Lord? We heard last week about John coming to make a people prepared for the Lord—what does that preparation look like today?

PRAY

Lord, help me prepare the way for you in my heart.