



MESSAGE NOTES

STRENGTH FOR THE STRUGGLE - PT 3

"A Backstage Pass to Isaiah 40"

Pastor Chris Lautsbaugh

May 17, 2020

Hezekiah was facing a life or death situation.

Sennacherib and the Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem, laying siege to it.

2 Chronicles 32:7-8; Isaiah 37:15-20; Isaiah 37:36-38a; Isaiah 40:28-31

1. Hezekiah teaches us to trust in God.

In times of turmoil and chaos we must rehearse the character of God, which remains clear and steadfast.

2. Hezekiah and Isaiah strengthened each other.

We all need people like Isaiah and Hezekiah around us to bring strength.

3. Hezekiah used his strength to strengthen others.

When we consider the struggles of others, it always puts our own issues in perspective.

Is God asking you to trust him, to lean into others, or be strong on someone else's behalf?

**All scriptures are from the English Standard Version.*

Small Group Outline & Discussion Questions

Celebrate and Care:

Have each person share a high and low from this past week.

Review:

The Siege of Jerusalem faced by Hezekiah serves as the backdrop to the key passage of our series, Isaiah 40:28-31. Hezekiah's strength in his struggle gives us insight to find strength for the current siege we are living under.

Open Up:

Hezekiah and Isaiah were faith friends. Who are your go-to faith friends?

Discuss:

Choose one or two questions for your group to discuss as time allows.

- ▶ Read Isaiah 40:38-42. How does it change your perspective of this passage to understand the backstory?
- ▶ Read 2 Chronicles 32:7-8. During this season, what are some areas we must take confidence for personally and for our world?
- ▶ Pastor Chris said, "We, in Lancaster County, are great at offering help and fixing things; we are not so good at asking for help and making needs known." What keeps people from asking for help and making needs known?
- ▶ What are some practical ways people could use their God-given strength to strengthen someone else during this time?

Engage:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with these questions then share your thoughts.

Is God asking you to trust him, to lean into others, or be strong on someone else's behalf?

What will you do as a response?

Pray:

Pray for us all, that we will hear what God is saying, lean into this season, and connect with His plans for us personally and for our world.