



Study 2: God is great so we don't have to be in control

(for online sermons, visit:
www.hopechurch.org.nz)

Scanning

Main Texts: Isaiah 40:9-31
Other Texts: Psalm 8; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:25-34

Read slowly through this remarkable Isaiah text. Stop and reflect each time your group hears Isaiah describe a God whose power and wisdom they would be quite happy to live under.

- Why do our “big thoughts” of God seem to evaporate so quickly when we feel stretched, tested and tempted?

Going Deeper

1. What are some of your favourite stories of the greatness of God in the Biblical story?
 - E.g., Read the story of the three boys thrown into the furnace in Daniel 3:8-18. How does what they knew of God (Daniel 2:19-23) fuel their radical faith in God? (Daniel 3:16-18).
2. What does it mean for God to be all-powerful, in control, sovereign over the details of your life?
 - In your life, what are the fruits of unbelief in the greatness of God?
 - In Philippians 4:6, why is thanking God *prior* to your requests key to believing in God's greatness?
3. What is a “control freak”? Are you one?
 - Does this kind of attitude belittle God? If so, how?
4. What are you really in control of in your life?
 - To what degree is our sense of control an illusion generated by our culture and education?

Applying

5. What feels “out of control” in your life? How does God's greatness help you with this?
6. What feels comfortably “in control” in your life that you need to learn to submit to the sovereign wisdom of God?
7. Isaiah 40:31 calls for us to “wait upon the Lord”. How does this look in your life? How might you make this a way of life?

“The sovereign king of the universe is our Father... We overcome the grip of fear by knowing what God has done for us and in us through his Son. We break fear's grip by realising God did not give this fear to us; rather, he has given us the Spirit of power, love and self-control.” (Brian S. Borgman, Feelings and Faith: Cultivating Godly Emotions in the Christian Life, 129).