



## LESSON 12

### ISAIAH 41

1. What was your favorite truth, verse, or insight from our study of **Isaiah 40**? How did it encourage you this week?
2. Prayerfully read **Isaiah 41**, in which God speaks to the nations (or islands) and to their idolatry. For background, read **Genesis 17:1-8** and **22:17-18** and summarize God's everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants and the potential impact on the nations.
3. **Isaiah 41** opens with a courtroom scene (**VI**). Refer ahead to **V21-24** for a fuller view of the trial. Describe who is involved and the challenge made

4. How does God describe Himself in **V2-4**, and what is His role in history and with the nations? See **Revelation 1:17, 22:12-13**. Note: *Scholars think that the "one from the east" could be Abraham, the Jewish patriarch, or Cyrus, the king of Persia who conquered Babylon and issued a decree allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem.*
5. **Isaiah 41:5-7** describes the reactions of the nations and to whom they turn as God guides the course of history. What do you observe?
6. In **V8-9**, how does God affirm His relationship with Israel and their identity in contrast to the nations?
7. a) Read **V10-14**. What instructions does God give Israel as they face overwhelming circumstances?
- b) What are your greatest fears, and how has God strengthened you as He has revealed Himself in these verses?
8. Through the difficult conditions that will beset the returning exiles, God expresses His ability and intention to provide for their needs. Review **V15-20** and list the ways God will abundantly provide.

9. The trial continues with God stating His case against the futility of idols in **V21-29**. What is the argument that God presents?

10. List all the "I will" statements made by God that you can find in **Ch. 41**, noting the verse. Which statements do you most need to hear and why?

11. Reflection on who God is: **God With Us (Immanu El)**

God says in **Isaiah 41:10a**, "**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.**" The birth of Jesus fulfills the Lord's promise spoken through Isaiah: "**The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Immanuel - which means God with us**" **Matthew 1:23**. Write a prayer inviting the presence of Jesus into your anxieties and fearful circumstances.

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**