**SCC SMALL GROUPS**

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**NO CHANGE WANTED**

**Isaiah 40:12-31**

**Getting Started:**

1. When you are down in the dumps, what favorite thing do you like to think about to

lift your spirits?

\* Does it help?

2. In your group who has the largest hand breadth (the distance from thumb to little finger as the hand is stretched out)?

\* Who has the smallest?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

A. What is the intended effect of all these rhetorical questions?

\* In each comparison (creation, knowledge, the nations), how does God fare?

B. How do the works of our hands compare with those of God (vs. 12,19-20)?

\* When do our own works become idols?

C. How does God regard the power of nations, even today's superpowers (vs.15-17, 23-24)?

D. Is any image or standard of comparison adequate to measure God's worth (vs. 18- 25)?

\* Why or why not?

E. What is the complaint of the exiles (v.27)?

\* What must they still learn about God before they can be restored to their homeland (vs. 21,28)?

F. As a weary exile, which of these promises would you find most uplifting?

**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. What "grass and flowers" (v.6) or "idols" (v. 19) of this world today seem awfully powerful to you?

\* How much do you depend on them?

\* By comparison, do the promises of God just seem like words right now, or do they provide you with hope? Why?

2. What sort of complaints do you hear today from unchurched people?

\* From Christians?

\* How might you answer them from the truths in this chapter?

3. When have you most recently felt like God must have lost your address or phone number?

\* What fears and thoughts arose in your mind?

\* How might the truths of this chapter help restore strength to you?

4. Practically and theologically, how does one "sore like and eagle"?

\* Compare verse 31 with Exodus 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:10-11. How is learning to hope in God (v. 31) like a fledgling bird learning how to fly?

\* How has God "caught" you when you have fallen instead of flown?

\* In what way is He teaching you to fly now?