



Sermon-based small groups connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, while getting connected, cared for and known. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life and do it with people just like you to support you on your journey.

Message Info: Same You, New Vibe, 1/1/23 - It's tempting at the start of every year to pursue a new goal towards self-improvement. But the challenges we typically take on are really saying "if I can change enough, my life will be better." And while desiring improvement is a great frame of mind, more of ourselves won't bring about the kind of change we need. (*Passages: Isaiah 40:9 & 25-31, Colossians 1:17*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Reflect on some of your New Year's resolutions. Does hindsight bring any of them into clearer focus? Maybe you sought something desperately that wasn't really what you needed. How many times did you succeed in your goal? How long did it last?

Read Isaiah 40:25-31. What sticks out to you about this passage? Why?

This chapter begins a shift in Isaiah. The focus moves from the people and their circumstances to God's character. He is once again reminding his people who he is: no one compares and nothing can compete. He created all, and holds all things together (Col. 1:17). Essentially, he is telling his children "look to me; I will not fail you."

When has God interrupted you with a gentle reminder? Were you too focused on your own perspective, like Jonah? Were you beaten-up or overwhelmed like Job? Had you gone astray? Or gotten wrapped up in sin?

Read the quote in Isaiah 40:9. What does this short statement convey?

We need the reminder. He is where our focus should be and our strength/hope/comfort/provision should come from; bigger source, better everything. Our own understanding and capabilities will get exhausted. Add God and faith to how you live to experience true renewal.

Group Challenge: This year, make your focus "same you, bigger God!"