

Behold

DISCUSSION GUIDE I Week of January 11, 2026

GETTING STARTED

- Brandon introduced the series with the idea of *coram deo*, living before the face of God.
 - Where do you feel most aware of God's presence right now? Where do you feel least aware?
 - When you think about God looking at you, what is your instinctive assumption: comfort, disappointment, distance, or delight?
- What stood out to you most in this week's sermon?
- Describe a season when your faith felt centered on God's grace, and a season when it felt centered on your performance. What was different about how you experienced God in each?

DIGGING INTO SCRIPTURE

Read **Isaiah 40:1–11** aloud together.

Sit in 30 seconds of silence before beginning discussion.

- In verses 1–2, God commands that His people be spoken to with tenderness.
 - Why might tenderness feel surprising when we think about God addressing sin?
 - Where do you personally find it hardest to believe that God speaks tenderly to you?
- Isaiah describes God coming to His people in power and gentleness (vv. 10–11).
 - Which aspect of God do you tend to emphasize more, His authority or His compassion?
 - How does seeing God as both sovereign ruler and gentle shepherd change the way you relate to Him?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE CONT.

DIGGING INTO SCRIPTURE CONT.

- Verses 6–8 contrast human frailty with the enduring Word of God.
 - Where do you most feel your own inconsistency or “fickleness” right now?
 - How does the promise that God’s Word endures forever bring comfort or stability to your life?

HONEST REFLECTION

- Brandon said that many of us assume God’s gaze toward us is confrontational rather than comforting. Where do you think that assumption comes from in your own life?
- The sermon described God as a “missionary God,” moving toward sinners rather than away from them.
 - Where have you experienced God’s kindness drawing you closer to Him?
 - Where do you still resist believing that kindness is really for you?
- How does your view of God’s posture toward you affect the way you treat others, especially those who are struggling or far from faith?

PRAYER & PRACTICE FOCUS

This week’s invitation was to Behold God: to live *coram deo*.

- Over the next week, commit to 5-10 minutes a day of silence and stillness before God.
- As you sit, reflect on these questions:
 - Is God’s gaze toward me comfort or confrontation?
 - Does He speak to me with tenderness or anger?
- Pray slowly: “God, help me receive Your comfort.”
- End by thanking God that His Word, and His grace, do not wither, fade, or fail.