

Youth



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

Retrieve, review, and have ready the video's listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).

Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Outcasts

Play the "God Help the Outcasts" video clip.

Use these questions to facilitate discussion.

- What was the difference between the way Esmeralda and the religious people prayed in this clip? Why did Quasimodo take notice of her prayer?
- Which way in this clip do you think most Christians today call out to God? Explain?
- Do you think it is wrong to ask God for fame, riches, and/or blessings? Why or why not?
- Who in your school and/or community is looked at as being outcast? Why?
- Have you ever considered yourself to be an outcast? Explain?

✔ Comfort

Read Isaiah 40:1-11 and watch the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

- What difficulties were the Israelites facing in this text? How would it have been easy for Israel to think God had abandoned them?
- What characteristics of God can you see in this text? How would that be comforting to Israel?

✔ Troubles

Play the "Can't Keep me Down" video clip.

- Where did Bobby originally turn to deal with his depression? Where do teenagers usually turn when they feel troubled, isolated, or outcasted?
- Where do you usually turn in times of trouble? Why?
- Why does God seem to be the last place someone looks when they struggle?

✔ Isolation

Play the Leona Lewis music video.

- How does this song speak to this week's Biblical passage? What images were most impactful for you?

- Have you ever been in such despair that you thought you were all alone? Explain. How did it make you feel?
- How does it give you comfort to know that God is always there? What does it mean for God to be there when you feel isolated and alone? How does God carry us when we struggle? How does this impact the way God comes into your life?
- How can you prepare yourself to make a way for God to rush into your life this advent season?

Close with prayer.

By Don Breeden

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