**Growth Group Questions**

Isaiah 41 Wobble

March 29, 2020

1. How are you doing? What has been like to be isolated? Can you think of biblical moments that might parallel your isolated experience? Check out this blog from someone who did a biblical survey (a bit tongue in cheek) <https://blog.reformedjournal.com/2020/03/21/biblical-quarantines-a-survey/>
2. What were the three things about paddling that Pastor Jim thought might apply to such a time as this? Which one strikes you as most beneficial for you? (Keeping steady by 1) paddling forward and deep; 2) by regular practice; 3) by eating a meal.
3. Why might the experience expressed in Isaiah 41 be an encouragement to us today?
4. Pastor Jim described a rabbinical perspective on the description of Israel being a worm. What do you think of the worm’s tender mouth being able to destroy a strong cedar being description of our prayer life?
5. What is your greatest fear and worry at this time? Here is a prayer that one of my favorite professors wrote? What do you think of it? What strikes you?

A Prayer to God in Anxious Times

Gracious God, Champion of the Universe, we so often fluff ourselves up. Aren’t we the only creatures who compose masterpieces of music and art? Don’t we govern ourselves, enrich ourselves, promote ourselves? Can’t we dunk basketballs, bat baseballs, spike volleyballs? Aren’t some of us masters of comic irony? Other creatures don’t practice rocket science. We do.

And yet. Here we are, frightened by a thing so small it can’t be seen under most microscopes. It’s not even an animal or a plant. It’s a virus, a mere parasite, dependent on our own living cells to replicate. And yet it has shuttered our schools, cancelled our flights, and emptied our churches. It has consumed the attention of our leading scientists, wrenched our politics out of shape, dominated our conversations, and scared the daylights out of us.

We don’t want to get sick. And we don’t want to die.

We are afraid, O God. Afraid of a microorganism. Afraid of each other.

Great and quiet source of peace, quiet our fears. We are wary, uncertain, strung tight. Quiet our fears. We have no idea what the future will bring, but we do know you will be in our future to hold us there. We cannot quiet ourselves, O God. We cannot comfort ourselves, cannot heal ourselves, cannot help ourselves. All we can do is wash our hands and keep our distance. Our rocket science is no good to us for this threat.

O God, great and quiet source of peace, quiet us, your anxious ones, and let us cling for comfort to your suffering Son, Jesus Christ. Gather us under his wings. Remind us that he suffers with us, but he’s also the great physician. In him, let us not be afraid. Please, let us not be afraid. Amen.

Written by Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

March 2020

1. Pastor Jim described four stages that we will have to move through in such a time as a church. Where are we at? Where are you at.
   1. Pause and Innovate
   2. Prepare and Plan.
   3. Engage and Execute.
   4. Recover and Reemerge.
2. Perhaps end your meeting with the prayer above.