



Sermon Discussion Questions

Strong Hope for Tough Times // Isaiah 45:18-25

- What has happened in the last weeks or months that has made you wonder who's in charge, what's going on, or if there's a plan?
- Pastor Jeff said an idol is anything that we love, trust, or value more than God, or anything we expect to do what only God can do. Based on that definition, what obvious idols are there in our culture?
- Pastor Jeff said "Strong hope comes from a big God." What is it that makes God seem smaller in our eyes than what's in front of us?
- Look in verses 18 and 21. What tells you that God is big enough to handle all the details? What has tempted you this last year to think that God doesn't have things under his control? When you or your plans are interrupted this week, remind yourself that God is in control and ask Him to help you respond with faith to what He's doing.
- Look in verses 22 and 24. Only God is able to save. What people or things are you tempted to look to for rescue, relief, identity, or hope? How have other "saviors" let you down or trapped you? Ask God to help you remember that he is our only source of righteousness, and ask Him to help you take intentional steps to show His grace and kindness to people you think don't deserve it.
- Look in verses 23-24. Only God is big enough to subdue all his enemies. When have you been tempted to despair at the way things are going in the world? How have you been tempted to take matters into your own hands and want to straighten out

“those people” yourself? How does hoping in God's ultimate justice bring peace to your heart? How does faith in Jesus lead you to work for God's justice?

- Pastor Ray Ortlund says, “The real Jesus settles us.” Pray that faith in a big God will bring peace and hope to settle you.

