

# Media



## ✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

## ✔ Intro

Start your session by having a volunteer read Isaiah 43:1-7 out loud and then immediately show the *Bible Background Video*. Tell your group that today's discussion will be focused around the idea of assurance during troubled times.

## ✔ Where Have All the Superheroes Gone?

Open the time together by watching "There is No Superman" and then initiate some discussion using questions like the ones provided.

- Do you remember ever having an epiphany similar to the one in this clip: a feeling like there's no one powerful enough to save everyone?
- This clip comes from the movie "Waiting for Superman" which documents the sad state of education in much of our nation. What problems or troubles would you say that we're facing in this country?
- Do you feel hopeful about the future? Why or why not?
- Was Israel's exile in Babylon greater or lesser than our current situation? Explain.

## ✔ A Little Premature

Watch the clip entitled 'None Like It Hot' from *An Inconvenient Truth*.

- Why is the "once and for all" solution a totally unsatisfying answer for the little girl?
- What are some of the premature or unsatisfying solutions we often use to cover over major issues?
- The *Bible Background Video* in the beginning shows us how taking this scripture out of its context can be a little misleading. Have someone read Isaiah 43:1-7 again and this time have everyone pretend that it isn't intended for anyone except them. Now ask:

does this scripture seem at all helpful or pertinent to the problems we face?

- So if there are no easy fixes, what do we do? Do we wait, give up, try to fix things ourselves?

## ✔ A Small Light in a Dark Room

Finally watch the clip from Saving Private Ryan called "It Doesn't Make Any Sense" and be warned that there is one occurrence of harsh language. Preview the clip to make sure you are comfortable showing it in your setting.

- Why do you think Matt Damon had such a hard time believing that he was worth saving?
- Do you think that Israel questioned God's reassuring words that He still cared for them even in their pain?
- What might God be reassuring us of in the midst of the challenges we are facing?

## ✔ Outro

End your session by praying that your group would be reminded of God's presence even in our pain. Even though God doesn't promise easy fixes, we can be confident that God is with us.

By Rory Naeve

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