



## ASIA | INDIA

### Isaiah 40:1-11

#### LEARN How your love helps neighbors in India

India, a country of approximately 1.3 billion people, is located in southern Asia and bordered by China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh. The Himalayan mountains in northern India contain some of the highest mountains in the world. The official languages of India are Hindi and English, though it is reported that nearly 20,000 native languages are spoken throughout the country.

Lutheran World Relief has been working in India since the 1950s, and today operates in two of India's poorest states, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where farming is a primary means of income for families.

Your congregation's love makes solutions possible and reaches those with the very least, including Dalits, who are members of the lowest social class in the traditional Indian caste system.

In India, your love is at work alongside communities to help farmers replace decades-old farming methods with climate-smart, sustainable solutions, so they can grow nutritious foods — such as vegetables and pulses — and improve yields and quality to ultimately generate higher income.

Your commitment to loving your neighbor also helps rural communities better protect themselves from deadly natural disasters by helping communities develop lifesaving disaster risk management plans.

#### WATCH

#### Early Warning Saves Rajendra's Community



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## DISCUSS

1. What kind of weather warning systems do you have in place in your community? How do these systems bring you comfort?
2. Before Lutheran World Relief, Rajendra's community received no warning when the floodwaters were coming. In what ways can you imagine an early warning system has changed lives?
3. What are some of the innovative farming techniques you witnessed in Rajendra's community?
4. If you and/or your family lost everything in a flood, where would you turn for comfort and support?

## BIBLE STUDY

Today's Bible reading from Isaiah 40:1-11 is bookended with words that offer a vision of a caring and compassionate God. Read together v1 and v11.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>11</sup>[The Lord God] will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

1. Theologian Walter Brueggemann describes God's comfort not simply as an offer of solace, but as a "powerful intervention that creates new possibilities." Does this

description of God's comfort resonate with you? Why or why not? If possible, use examples from life when God's comfort has created new possibilities for you.

2. Isaiah 40:11 describes four ways that God comforts God's people. Identify each of the four ways. Which image of God brings you the most comfort? Why?
3. Do you think Rajendra and his family experienced God's comfort ?

## PRAY

God of all creation, you draw near to us like that of a shepherd feeding his flock. Gather all people into your arms, especially our neighbors at risk along the border of India and Nepal. Create new possibilities that promise a hope-filled future. Provide safety through early warning systems, feed the hungry with bountiful harvests and comfort all who fear natural disasters in our world. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope. **Amen.**

## SHARE YOUR LOVE

We invite you to send your love, each and every month, to your neighbors with the very least. **Please consider becoming a Faithful Neighbor** with a monthly gift of \$29 or more. Your love reaches further and stays longer, sustaining families in need and then sending help to the next village. Learn more and join at [lwr.org/hope](http://lwr.org/hope).

# Become a Faithful Neighbor through monthly giving.

With your monthly gift of \$29 or more, your love will be a light in the darkness for families in need — reaching further, staying longer and bringing hope all year long.

Get started now at [lwr.org/hope](http://lwr.org/hope).

**Until your love reaches every neighbor.**



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Jake Lyell for LWR