



Group Guide

Isaiah 53

July 28, 2024

Main Passage: Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Theological Theme

Isaiah prophesied about the suffering and death of the Messiah as God's means of reconciling sinful humans to Himself. Although Isaiah wrote about the cross hundreds of years before it happened, every detail was accurate and fulfilled just as he foresaw.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some reasons most people aren't excited to help someone else move?
- ❓ What are some other ways we may be unwilling to carry the burdens of others?

1. The Plan for Salvation (Isaiah 52:13-15)

Today's passage is a direct reference to the coming Messiah. Isaiah's words pointed forward to the events surrounding Jesus's death. This is the same passage that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading in his chariot when he asked Philip who the author was talking about. These are powerful words that carry great weight even though they were written hundreds of years before Jesus's arrival in human form.

- ❓ What description of Jesus stands out to you from these last three verses of Isaiah 52?
- ❓ What is significant about starting from a place of Jesus's victory? How does this apply to our daily lives?
- ❓ Application: How have you experienced the restoration that comes through faith in Christ?

2. The Suffering (Isaiah 53:1-9)

This chapter foretells in detail the suffering Jesus would endure and the way He would eventually die. The Messiah would suffer greatly to cleanse the nations. How would deep and painful suffering bring about cleansing? It is easy for us to see the redemption brought about through the cross today, but this would not have been as clear a picture of Isaiah's original audience. Much of the descriptive language feels contradictory on the surface.

- ❓ When have you felt like someone or some place was “too dry” to receive the gospel? How does the image of the suffering servant remind you that nothing is impossible for God?
- ❓ What aspects of this description of Jesus can you connect to the events that took place near the end of His life? How does the fulfillment of this prophecy help bolster your faith?
- ❓ Application: How is God calling you to respond to what Jesus has done for you?

3. The Victory (Isaiah 53:10-12)

Following the harrowing description of the Messiah’s suffering, Isaiah reminds us this was God’s will. Some translations use the word “pleased” to describe God’s posture toward these events. This reminds us Jesus was not a victim of circumstances; He was the key figure in this plan ordained by God and prophesied by Isaiah hundreds of years before it happened. This was a victory for the Lord despite how it looked in human terms.

- ❓ How is it possible that God could be pleased with what would happen to Jesus?
- ❓ How do we receive the work of Jesus on our behalf?
- ❓ Application: Who can you tell about the finished work of Jesus on their behalf?

Conclusion

- ❓ How are you impacted to revisit the details of Jesus’s sacrifice on your behalf?
- ❓ How can we as a group remind one another of these truths on a regular basis?
- ❓ How can you seek a gospel conversation with another person by sharing the message of Isaiah 53 with them?