

## **Weekly Study Guide**

### **09/01/24 - Choose Your Cross**

#### **Read Isaiah 53**

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. 4 Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people, he was punished. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### **Questions:**

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? What is the main focus? Is there anything that catches your attention?
2. Describe these verses with a word or phrase or suggest a chapter title or news headline for this passage.

3. Can you identify any similarities between the person in Isaiah 53 and Jesus in Luke 23? What prophecies were fulfilled?
4. Who was the suffering servant? What are some of the ways he suffered? What was the purpose of his suffering? What are some of the benefits of his suffering?
5. Share a few takeaways from this passage. How can you apply this to your life? How can will it strengthen your relationship with God? Is there anything you've believed in the past that needs to change?

**References:** [Luke 23:1-55](#); [1 Peter 1:18-21](#); [1 Corinthians 5:7](#); [Revelation 13:8](#); [John 1:29](#); [1 Peter 3:18](#); [Isaiah 53:12](#); [Galatians 2:20](#); [Galatians 5:24](#); [Romans 6:6-8](#); [Luke 9:23-24](#); [Romans 5:1-8](#), [3:23](#), [6:23](#)

**For later:** What about you? What side of the cross are you on? Prayerfully consider how this lesson relates to you. What will change in view of this lesson? How will you make sure you don't waste your cross?

### **Lesson Key:**

1. The focus of Isaiah 53 is a man who will suffer horribly for the sins of many. It seems to point to how and why Jesus died on the cross for us. If true, it is strong evidence of God's plan and purpose behind the crucifixion.
2. The suffering servant. The atonement. The justification for sin. Prophecy fulfilled! The Lamb to the slaughter. Crushed. Broken and poured out.
3. A few similarities are that Jesus was silent, was rejected, he suffered and was pierced through. He was punished between two thieves and then buried in a rich man tomb. Jesus poured out his life unto death. For a list of prophecies fulfilled go here! <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html>
4. Jesus is the suffering servant. No one else in history fits the description in Isaiah 53. Jesus was despised and rejected, beaten, scourged, and wounded. He was oppressed and afflicted. He was mocked, spit on, and cut off. This was done to bear our sin and our punishment. Jesus was an offering for our sin. Because of this we are forgiven and justified. Through Christ we can experience the light of life. God's will and plan will prosper through him.
5. Christ's death on the cross paid for our sins and restores our relationship with God. By receiving Christ, we can be forgiven and set free from our sin. We must decide what we will do with Jesus. It's time to pick up our cross and follow Jesus.