

Small Group Study - Participant Guide

The Suffering Servant
Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Opening Discussion

Can you think of a time when someone chose to suffer or sacrifice for the good of another person? What impact did it have?

Discussion Questions

The Shocking Glory of the Servant

Read Isaiah 52:13–15

1. What contrast do you see between verse 13 and verse 14?
2. Why do you think people were “astonished” by his appearance (v.14)?
3. What does it mean in verse 15 that he “shall sprinkle many nations”?

Application Question

How does it change your view of God to consider that He would choose to save through someone so disfigured and rejected?

The Rejection of the Servant

Read Isaiah 53:1–3

1. What kind of person is described in verses 2–3?
2. Why do you think people didn’t recognize the Servant as someone important?
3. What phrases in these verses reflect how Jesus was treated during His life and death?

Application Question

What temptations do we face to seek outward appearance, status, or worldly influence—and how does this contrast with Jesus?

The Substitution of the Servant

Read Isaiah 53:4–6

1. What actions does the Servant take in these verses?
2. What words describe our condition, and how does the Servant respond to it?
3. What is the significance of the repeated “our” and “we” in these verses?

Application Question

When you read that God laid your sin on Him (v.6), how do you respond? What emotions or thoughts come up?



The Willingness and Victory of the Servant

Read Isaiah 53:7–12

1. What surprises you most in how the Servant responds to injustice (vv.7–9)?
2. How does verse 10 shape your understanding of God's purpose in the Servant's suffering?
3. What does verse 11 say is the result of the Servant's work?

Application Question

What does it mean for your life today that “by his knowledge shall the righteous one... make many to be accounted righteous”?

Prayer

Thank God for His plan to rescue through the suffering of the Servant.

Confess any tendency to overlook or minimize Jesus's sacrifice.

Ask for a deeper trust in His grace and a heart to worship in response.

