

## Day 1



October 9

*Pray / Give thanks for Jesus' sacrifices for us.*

Salvation comes through the suffering of God's chosen servant.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God opened the eyes of Isaiah to see the coming savior with detail no one had seen before. Isaiah used past tense to communicate certainties about the suffering of a servant, the Messiah, even though the events had yet to occur. Before listing the various ways Jesus would agonize on the cross, Isaiah 52:13-15 contrasts Jesus' final victory with the atrocities of his crucifixion. It is as if the pain of these verses is so horrific that Isaiah wants us to know how the story ends before we begin. Today's verses lay the foundation for the victory that Jesus earned by means of sacrifice. The action of submitting to the will of his father was wise because it resulted in Jesus being raised, lifted up, and greatly exalted.



*Read / Isaiah 52:13-15*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Isaiah's words lay the foundation for the victory that Jesus earned by means of sacrifice. What sacrifice do you need to make today to honor God?

So many times we wish for a crystal ball to see what the future holds. A new job, big vacation, winning the lottery, the status of our health. As Christians, we know that our future is eternity in God's perfect kingdom, because of Jesus Christ. What impact does this have on your life?

What tragic situations among faithful people have you seen in life? How did that person respond? What if something good was suddenly taken away from your life? How might you respond?

*Day 2*  
October 10



**Pray** | Thank God for giving us his word, the Bible.

God works in ways we don't expect, using people we wouldn't expect.

The Jews of Jesus' day were hoping for a Messiah who would be a majestic king with the power to conquer enemies. Instead, Isaiah predicted a servant (Isaiah 52:13), an ordinary man who would suffer for the sins of all people. Such a prophecy is astounding, even unbelievable. Who would believe that God would choose to save the world through a humble, suffering servant rather than a glorious king? The idea is contrary to human pride and worldly thinking. Consequently, still today, many people don't understand the importance of Jesus. They despise, reject, and turn away from Jesus, in exchange for false gods who promise the health and prosperity they desire, rather than the salvation they need.



**Read** | Isaiah 53:1-3



**Reflect** | *Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Sometimes we might find ourselves recreating Jesus in our minds and when speaking about him to others to make him more appealing. We may change his message to fit our current needs, his tone, his requirements of us, his work, his kingdom, and his demands. How do these recreations distract us from the primary work Jesus came to do?

Isaiah prophesied about a mysterious servant who would be rejected and despised and yet accomplish salvation through his suffering. How have you experienced rejection from others because of your faith?

When we love and serve others, we can point them to the true servant, Jesus, who gave his life for us. How will you share the story of Jesus when you serve others this week?

## Day 3

October 11

**Pray** | Ask for patience through the suffering you are experiencing

Jesus is the Suffering Servant. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

How could someone living in the time of the old testament understand the idea of Christ dying for our sins, bearing the punishment we deserved? The sacrifices of the time suggested this idea, but it is one thing to kill a lamb, and something quite different to think of God's chosen servant as the lamb. Through the prophet Isaiah, God was pulling aside the curtain of time to let the people of Isaiah's day look ahead to the suffering of the future Messiah and the resulting forgiveness made available to all people. Our salvation is possible because as our substitute, Jesus removes our sins and imputes his righteousness to us.



**Read** | Isaiah 53:4-9

**Reflect** | *Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Verse 8 tells us that people turned away from Jesus and he was condemned. Has obedience to God ever left you feeling “cut off” from others? How does knowing of God's approval give you courage to serve, even when others turn against you?

Isiah speaks of Israel straying from God and compares them to wandering sheep. Reflect on your faith. In what ways are you like a wandering sheep that has gone astray?

Jesus was humiliated through his death on the cross. Reflect on a situation where we might need to experience humbling times in order to faithfully serve others, even if they don't appreciate our faithfulness.

## Day 4

October 12



### Pray | *Ask forgiveness for your sins*

The servant's suffering was the will of God. The atrocities against the Messiah weren't accidental, they were in fact carefully orchestrated by God, and he was pleased to do so. God loved us so much, that he sent his son to suffer on our behalf. The greater good produced by Jesus' willing substitution far outweighed his agony. Because he was victorious over sin and death, Jesus is exalted over all the earth. In addition to receiving the glory that he clearly earned, we receive atonement and forgiveness that we do not deserve. Jesus willingly became an offering for sin, and we will see how God the father rewards him.



### Read | Isaiah 53:10-12



### Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

This suffering servant shows us what love is all about. How has his love directly affected your life? Your relationships? Your responses to others?

Have you ever thought of yourself as a reward to Christ for his work on the cross? How does this change your ambition to live for him?

Jesus suffered for our sake, bearing our sins to make us acceptable to God. Can you imagine feeling this much love? How can you demonstrate your thankfulness to God today?

## Day 5

October 13



**Pray** | Pray for someone in your life that does not follow Jesus

God loves us so much, that he sent his son as a suffering servant for our salvation. Just knowing this truth is not enough to save us though, we need to act on it. Christianity is more than a one time decision. We need to continually commit our life to Jesus, keeping him in our hearts, living our lives for him, and continually responding with repentance for our sins, and having faith in his plan for us. We are also called to eagerly spread the good news that because of Jesus, salvation is available to all. If God merely turned a blind eye to our sins and wickedness, there would be little motivation to take the gospel to the world. The costly nature of Jesus' sacrifice should compel us to share with others so everyone can benefit as we have.



**Read** | Romans 10:9-13, Matthew 28:19-20



**Reflect** | *Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Have you accepted Jesus as your lord and savior? Spend some time in prayer committing yourself and your life to Jesus, thanking Jesus for his sacrifice, for you.

As you think about Jesus' great commission, what holds you back from passing on the good news of Jesus Christ? Who can you share the good news with today?

How have you lived with Jesus in your presence this week? How have you showered God's love onto others?

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