

DISCUSSION IDEAS
THE SERVANT

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

April 9th, 2017

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Key Truth:

Trust in Jesus, God's *Servant*, Who's death for sins, burial and resurrection were clearly predicted 700 years before He came.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: A MISTAKEN OPINION.**

Think about an opinion you or an acquaintance have had, one which is later proven to be wrong.

What might be some of the reasons that you (or they) did not want to change your view?

Imagine being Jewish and hoping for a Messiah who would end oppression and be The Great King of Israel.

Now look at Isaiah 52:13-15.

How confusing would verse 14 be?

Read these verses again, looking at the tenses of the verbs (past, present or future?) in each verse.

What does the Gospel make clear about these verses?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: EYES ARE OPENED.**

Remember the prophecies about the Great Tribulation?

What does Isaiah 10:20-23 say about Jews in the end times?

Look at Zechariah 12:7 to 13:1. What does Zech. 12:10 say about a change of heart?

Now compare that to Isaiah 53:1-9. Read this aloud, experiencing it as the confession and lament that it is.

Go through this confession and list the prophecies that literally were fulfilled in Jesus.

In Isa. 53:8-10a the prophet shows that this Savior, "The Arm of The Lord", will die.

What statements in verses 10b-12 make it clear the He would rise from the dead?

Remember, this prophecy was made about 700 years before Jesus died and rose again to save us! How does that give us confidence that the Bible is in fact the Word of God?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: HE MAKES INTERCESSION FOR US!!!**

Isa. 53:12 ends with: "...yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors".

As we dwell on what Jesus did for us on that Passover and Easter, discuss what it means that He makes intercession for us.

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What do you see in Hebrews 7:23-25? Why is Jesus the effective intercessor?

Look at Romans 8:33-34. How does this give you confidence before God?

Read 1 John 2:1-2. How does the idea of "Advocate" describe Jesus today?

Think about what Jesus did for Peter in Luke 22:31-32.

Wrap your mind around Job's statement in Job 16:25-27. Do you have that level of confidence in Jesus? If not, what can you do about it?

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Our Grace Church Elders: Pray for our elders as they continue to guide Grace Church, always seeking God's will.

Shelter Valley: Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry.

Pray for the developing local leaders and for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Home Groups: Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pray that each one of us would seek to learn how to use our individual spiritual gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ.

Gettises: Pray for the Gettis family as they continue to get settled in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Cindy writes: "Please pray the Lord provides us with a vehicle that is reliable and affordable."

Pearsons: Continue to pray for John and Bobbie Pearson. Their son, John Caleb is on hospice care with advanced cancer. He and his wife Cheri are now staying at a rental condo near John and Bobbie in Forest,

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VA. He is bedridden and on two meds for pain control. John and Bobbie take a turn in the around the clock family schedule for sitting with him. Thanks for prayers during this stressful time.

Barangonan Island: Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as the Ingvaldstads get settled here in Ramona and adjust to a new stage in their life.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as Binders make decisions about their new life in Germany.

Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Pray for God's choice of Elders to become clear as various men continue to serve Him in the Tagbanwa church.

Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

Persecuted Believers:

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

THIS WEEK:

1. **Bekasi, Indonesia:** On March 7, hundreds of Muslims converged on the construction site of a new church in Bekasi, Indonesia, removing a sign announcing the church's construction and lodging a complaint with the town mayor.

Local Muslims used loudspeakers to protest the local authorities who had approved the new church in their neighborhood.

Please pray that the local government will treat minority Christians fairly and not give in to demands from hard-line Muslims.

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2. **Zambia:** “Azibo,” a young Zambian, placed his faith in Christ early last year after talking with a front-line worker about the nightly dreams he’d been having about Jesus.

When he returned home and told his family about his new Christian faith, they gave him one week to change his mind or face expulsion from the family. Despite the threat, at the end of the week Azibo told his family members that he could not give up his faith in Jesus. Fulfilling their threat, they kicked him out of the family.

Azibo slept in the open air for a week before the front-line worker learned what had happened and invited him to a VOM-supported safe house and business-training program. After Azibo completes the training program a year from now, he should be able to support himself.

3. **Algeria – Digital Bibles:** A group of Christians are currently traveling across Algeria distributing digital Bibles in the local languages.

Sometimes they are unable to give the Bibles to specific individuals, so they have to use a different approach. “In areas where we can’t distribute openly, we found a solution in leaving the materials on the table in coffee shops and on the buses,” a VOM worker said.

A few weeks ago, someone called into a Christian TV station saying he’d found one of the digital Bibles on a bus and wanted to know more about Jesus. Most of the distributed materials are for unbelievers, but the Christians are also providing materials for believers who cannot openly keep Bibles in their homes because of persecution from family members, a common problem among women who convert to Christianity.

Church leaders have said they are very grateful that these believers can receive the digital materials for spiritual encouragement.