

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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**GROWTH
GUIDE**

Christmas
with
Isaiah



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Study Date: 12/22/19

The Sacrifice Of The Savior

By almost every worldly standard, a hero is viewed as a powerful, mighty conqueror. There is the expectation that he will kill the enemy, conquer evil, and live. God, however, often does things in ways that defy earthly standards. Man has failed to walk by faith and obey God, resulting in spiritual death and exile. Man is hopeless to correct this situation on his own, due to the sinful nature of his heart. God promised to send a Savior that would be from the seed of the woman (Genesis 3); greater than Moses; and a son of David (2 Samuel 7). In Isaiah 53:1– 12, we see that this promised Savior would be an ordinary man in appearance, like those he came to save, and would suffer and die, not for his own sin but for the sin of others.

Suffering would indeed be the experience of God's promised Messiah. Far from being applauded by men, Isaiah says He will be "despised and rejected." Further, suffering will not be a small, momentary part of His experience, but rather the characterizing feature of it. He would be a "man of sorrows" and "acquainted with grief."

Sin always brings about suffering and shame. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, they immediately hid themselves because they were ashamed. When the suffering servant came, He would experience the suffering and shame that was part of sin's penalty, though the sin for which He suffered was not His own. He would willingly endure this suffering, not because He deserved it, but because it was required for Him to walk in complete obedience to His Father's will.

The promised Savior would be the "lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Though the Savior would carry the "sorrows" and "griefs" of those who deserved the punishment, many would misinterpret His suffering as God's curse against Him. Far from being the curse of God, it was His will that led Jesus to suffer (53:10). It was His unwavering obedience to the will of God, all the way to the cross, that provided the payment for our sin God's justice demanded.

The promised Savior would receive the piercing, crushing, and chastisement that we deserved. The sinless servant would take upon Himself the iniquity of all. As a result, those to whom His blood are applied receive His healing and peace. What rightly belonged to man (sin, suffering and death) was placed upon Him. What rightly belonged to Him (righteousness and life) was given to man, through repentance and faith in Him.

Source: “God Speaks...And Promises A Savior “ by Randy Mann

KEY VERSE

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

*All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Isaiah 53:1-2; John 1:10-14; Isaiah 31-33

His Virgin Birth

1. In what ways was it a sacrifice for Jesus to come to earth in the manner He did?
2. Why do you think the world did not recognize Jesus for who He is when he lived on earth? Why do many today still not recognize Him?

Tuesday: Isaiah 53:3-7; I Peter 2:24-25; Isaiah 34-36

His Vicarious Suffering

3. When we think of the suffering of Jesus we think of the cross where he certainly suffered. Isaiah 53:3 describes Jesus as a “man of sorrows acquainted with grief”. What role did suffering play in His life and ministry?
4. Why was Jesus willing to suffer for us? How willing are you to be obedient to God even if suffering is involved?

Wednesday: Isaiah 53:8-9; I Corinthians 15:3-6; Isaiah 37-39

His Violent Death

5. Why did Jesus have to die? Think of someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus. How would you explain this to them?
6. How does your life reflect that Jesus has died in your place and given you life?

Thursday: Isaiah 53:10-11; I Corinthians 15:55-58; Isaiah 40-42

His Vanquishing Resurrection

7. Isaiah 53:8 says that the suffering servant will be killed, but what words or phrases in Isaiah 53:10-11 point to Him having life after death?
8. Why is the resurrection of Jesus an important part of the Gospel?
9. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to you?

Friday: Isaiah 53:12; Philippians 2:9-11; Isaiah 43-45

His Victorious Reward

10. According to today's readings, what reward did Jesus receive?
11. List ways in which Christ's victory has given you victory.
12. Who in your life needs to hear the good news of what Jesus has done for us this Christmas? Why is Christmas time a good time to share your faith?