

Small Group Bible Study

Foreshadow Week 4

Main Theme

This week we see that hundreds of years before Jesus, Isaiah 53 clearly points to the cross and the gospel. What once seemed confusing comes into focus as we realize the entire story has always been about Jesus

Opening Prayer

God, open our eyes to see Jesus in Your Word. Help us understand and respond to what You've done for us. Amen.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- When you think about Easter growing up, what is one tradition or memory that stands out to you most?
- What is something about the Easter story that you heard growing up but didn't fully understand until later?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

1. Read Isaiah 53:1-4

Isaiah introduces a "Suffering Servant" who would come into a dry and broken world. He wouldn't look like what people expected. He would be rejected, misunderstood, and familiar with pain. Instead of being celebrated, he would be despised.

This is not the kind of king people were waiting for, but it is exactly who Jesus came to be.

- What stands out to you about how the servant is described?
- Why do you think people rejected him instead of following him?
- What does it mean that he was "familiar with pain"?
- How does this description challenge your expectations of who Jesus is?
- Why is it significant that there was nothing outwardly impressive about him?
- How does this connect to the life of Jesus in the New Testament?

2. Read Isaiah 53:5-6

These verses are the heart of the gospel. The servant is pierced, crushed, and punished, not for his own sin, but for ours. Our peace comes through his suffering, and our healing comes through his wounds.

This is where everything shifts. Salvation is not about what we do, it's about what he has done.

- What words or phrases stand out to you in these verses?
- What does it mean that he was pierced for our transgressions?
- Why is it important that the punishment was placed on him instead of us?
- How does this passage explain the gospel in a simple way?
- Why is it important to remember that salvation is not about "I did" but "He did"?
- How does this change the way you think about your relationship with God?

3. Read Isaiah 53:7-9; Luke 23:33-34

The servant does not defend himself. He remains silent, even though he is innocent. He is led like a lamb to the slaughter and willingly endures suffering.

In Luke, we see this fulfilled in Jesus. Even on the cross, instead of defending himself, he offers forgiveness.

- What stands out to you about the servant's response to suffering?
- Why do you think he chose not to defend himself?
- How does this compare to how we typically respond when we are wronged?
- What does Jesus' response on the cross reveal about his character?
- Why is it significant that he was willing to endure this without resistance?
- How does this deepen your understanding of his love?

4. Read Isaiah 53:7-9; Luke 23:33-34

The suffering was not meaningless. It was part of God's plan for redemption. Through his sacrifice, many would be made righteous. The servant would bear the sin of many and bring life.

Romans reminds us that Jesus did this while we were still sinners. His sacrifice was not earned, it was given.

- What stands out to you about God's purpose in this passage?
- Why is it significant that the servant was "satisfied" after suffering?
- What does this tell us about the value of what Jesus accomplished?
- How does Romans 5:6-8 connect to Isaiah 53?
- Why is it important to understand both forgiveness and righteousness?
- What does this reveal about the depth of God's love for you?

SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS

- What part of Isaiah 53 stood out to you the most and why?
- How does seeing Jesus in the Old Testament strengthen your faith?
- Why do you think it matters that God revealed this plan hundreds of years in advance?
- Do you tend to make your faith about what you do, or about what Jesus has done?
- What does it look like for you to live in response to the gospel, not just understand it?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What is one specific way you can respond this week to what Jesus has done for you (for example surrendering something, changing a habit, or stepping into obedience)?

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for what You've done for us. Help us live in response to Your sacrifice and walk in the truth of the gospel. Amen.