



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

The Book
of Isaiah

The
Suffering
Servant

The
Victorious
Servant

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2019

April

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Session 1: The Book of Isaiah

1. The messages found in the book of Isaiah were written several centuries ago, yet they have meaning for us today. What does that teach us about God?

2. The video described a very turbulent time for the nation of Israel – there were battles, threats, mistrust, exile, and more. How does knowing this history help us to understand the different themes and messages in the book of Isaiah, or the Bible itself?

3. How do you think the people responded to Isaiah's messages of rebuke for their unfaithfulness? How do we respond when confronted with, perhaps, unwanted truth from one of God's messengers?

4. The video stated, "Isaiah's purpose was to declare the good news that God will glorify Himself through the renewed and increased glory of His people, which would draw the attention of the nations." Do you think you are called to this same purpose? How can you live out this purpose?

5. What can you learn about trusting in God from the stories of Israel and Judah, as laid out in the video? Why do you think we often look around for help, instead of looking up to God?

6. How does the book of Isaiah offer hope?

7. How can you understand Isaiah's three themes – God the Holy One, trust and confidence in God, and the Messiah, Servant, and Redeemer – in light of the gospel? How do you see these themes in Jesus' life?

Bible References

Isaiah

Session 2: The Suffering Servant

1. Discuss the phrase: *The body and blood of Jesus given for you*. Why do you think this is said to us when we receive Holy Communion? What should it remind us of?

2. Take a few moments to look over the words of the first nine verses of Isaiah 53. What words stick out to you? Why? What do you feel when you read them?

3. The prophet wrote that the Servant wouldn't appear to be anything special. Disciples of Jesus know differently. There are many today who don't recognize anything special about Jesus. How can His disciples help unbelievers see how special He is?

4. In the New Testament, we read of Jesus talking about His suffering and death, but the people around Him didn't seem to understand. What would you do in that kind of circumstance? How would you react to someone telling you that they would suffer and die?

5. When you pause to ponder the truth that Jesus suffered and died for your sin, what feelings are stirred within you? How are you moved to respond to Jesus' suffering?

6. Think for a moment on the following sentence from the video: "Only a consenting will can be a substitute for a rebellious will." Have you ever thought of yourself as having a rebellious will? What makes it possible to overcome a rebellious will?

7. Read Matthew 27:57-61. How do these verses fulfill Isaiah 53:9? What does that mean to you, knowing that Isaiah was written hundreds of years before the life of Christ?

8. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: If you've never listened to Handel's *Messiah*, make a point of finding a version on the internet. (Try going to YouTube and searching for *Handel's Messiah Tafelmusik*.) What emotions are portrayed with each line of the text? How does the music give the text deeper meaning?

Bible References

Isaiah 53

Session 3: The Victorious Servant

1. The theme for the Easter Sunday divine service was *Jesus Christ lives!* What is one thing from the service that changed your perspective on this phrase?

2. In the video, we heard that we have been justified through His victory over death. What does it mean to be justified?

3. What does Isaiah 53:10 tell us about God's will?

4. What does it mean to have an inheritance through Christ? (Ephesians 1:11-12)

5. Read Romans 6:5-8 together. Jesus sacrificed His life so that all who believe in Him could have a new life. What do these verses tell us is necessary to have new life in Christ?

6. *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:57). What does this verse mean to you this Eastertide? How can you share this with others?

7. How has this study of Isaiah 52 and 53 helped you appreciate Jesus' life, sacrifice, and resurrection?

Bible References

Isaiah 53:10-12
Ephesians 1:11

1 Corinthians 15:57
Isaiah 52:13 (NIV)

Isaiah 25:9

Small Group Theme for May: The Names of Jesus