

EXALTED SERVANT

ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

Big Idea Fulfilling ancient prophecies, Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of others and was exalted.
Bible Passage Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Lesson Summary

In this famous Messianic passage, Isaiah foretells the sufferings and exaltation of the Lord's servant. Isaiah makes it clear that there is a purpose for the servant's suffering; His rejection, crushing, and piercing result in our healing, justification, and peace.

Several of the prophecies in this chapter find their fulfillment in the Gospels. Jesus was pierced by the soldier's spear while hanging on the cross. He did not open his mouth when challenged by the high priest. Jesus made intercession for transgressors throughout His ministry, but notably, when on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He was laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man. You and your students will have the opportunity to see the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies in today's lesson.

Teacher Devotional

O Lord, I am humbled as I ponder the sacrifice of Jesus. Fill me with Your spirit so that I can show my students the wonder of Easter. Thank You for suffering for my sins. Thank You for modeling genuine servanthood.

May we all recognize the power of His servant leadership and the greatness of His exaltation. Teach through me, I ask in Jesus' name, amen.

Make Disciples

Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

Opening Prayer

Use Isaiah 52:13 to give thanks to God that Jesus acted wisely and obediently. Thank God that Jesus was willing to suffer to bring us peace and healing.

KeyVerse

Topic: Exalted Servant

Reference: Isaiah 52:13

Memorization Activity: After the students have read or practiced the verse briefly, write these two questions on the board: "How will the servant act?" and "What will happen to the servant?" Have the students find partners. The first partner asks the questions, and the second reads the answers straight from the memory verse. Let the students have a couple of turns asking and answering the questions.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • Jesus was despised, rejected, and punished for their sins.
- N** • Jesus obeyed God's will when He endured intense suffering.
- O** • God raised up and exalted Jesus after He suffered.
- W**

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Grieved at the terrible treatment Jesus endured.
- E** • Deeply grateful for Jesus' sacrifice for them.
- E**
- L**

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Identify words in Isaiah 53 that predicted Jesus' suffering.
- O** • Find New Testament fulfillment of prophecies.
- Consider how Jesus' death and resurrection affects them personally.
- Memorize Isaiah 52:13.

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

Personal Rejection (5-10 minutes)

This personal testimony connects kids to Jesus' suffering.

Before class, think about a personal experience in which you felt despised or rejected. At this point in the lesson, share that story with your students. If you have time, invite students to share their own experiences of rejection.

Read Isaiah 53:3 to the class. Ask them, **How does a person feel who is despised or rejected by others?** Help them find descriptive words of emotion like miserable, heartbroken, grief-stricken, depressed, despondent, or lonely.

OR

S-E-R-V-A-N-T (10 minutes)

This acrostic activity challenges the children to consider the nature of the servant Christ. **Supplies:** paper, markers

Before class begins, write or type in large font the letters SERVANT vertically on a piece of paper, and make photocopies of the page onto attractive paper. (Or just have the students write the letters themselves vertically onto paper.) Let them write an acrostic using each letter to start a word such as “suffering,” “exalted,” “risen,” and so on. If you like, display them around the room.

Disciple Guide—page 1

Have kids open their Bibles to Isaiah 53 to work on this page.

Explore Scripture

Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include exercises from the student Disciple Guides.

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Begin by asking the students, **Did the Easter events take place in the Old or New Testament?** Tell them that today they will see what the Old Testament has to say about Easter.

Isaiah 53 foretold many of the terrible things that happened to Jesus before He died and rose again. Distribute the worksheets and have the students open their Bibles to Isaiah 53. Working individually or in pairs, let them fill in the blanks on page 1 of the worksheet to identify some specific ways Jesus suffered.

Ask the students, **Why did Jesus go through such suffering?** Read the rest of Isaiah 53 to find the answer. Give kids

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ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

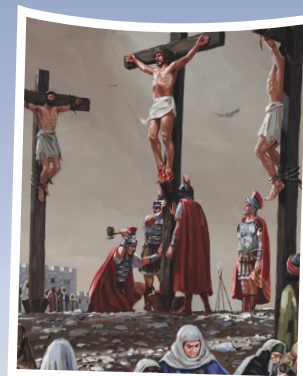
Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah told how Jesus, the Messiah, would suffer.

Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12.

Find words from these verses that show how Jesus would be treated.

despised, rejected

(v. 3)



pierced, crushed

(v. 5)

oppressed, afflicted

(v. 7)



a couple of quiet minutes to look through today's passage for answers to the "why" question. Don't accept answers till everyone has had a chance to look for them. As the students respond, write their answers on the board. There are many clues that answer the question, such as the memory verse (52:13). Also, they might notice in 53:5 that he was pierced "for our transgressions" and crushed "for our iniquities." His punishment "brought us peace" and healed us (also verse 5). Some students may notice that in verse 11 that the servant will "justify many."

Remind the students that Isaiah is an Old Testament prophet and wrote these words about 700 years before Jesus was even born. Turn to the back of the worksheet for a study on the fulfilled prophecies. The questions are raised from the following verses in Isaiah 53: The servant was pierced, verse 5. The servant didn't open his mouth, verse 7. The servant was laid in a rich man's grave, verse 9. The servant made intercession for the transgressors, verse 12. Let the students find the answers to the questions in the New Testament.

Disciple Guide—page 2

Help the children connect Isaiah's prophecies to New Testament events. Complete the HeartBeat, encouraging the kids to personally contemplate the Resurrection.

2

Fulfilled Prophecy

Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus came true! See for yourself.

Who pierced Jesus?
a soldier

John 19:34



When did Jesus not open His mouth?
when the accused Him

Mark 14:6

Jesus was laid in the grave of what rich man?

Joseph

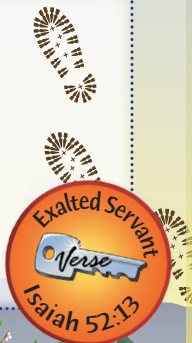
Matthew 27:57

When did Jesus pray for those who crucified Him?
while they divided His clothes



What impresses you most about Jesus' death and resurrection?

answers will vary



Inspire Action

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

By His Wounds (5-10 minutes)

This discussion activity emphasizes the importance of Christ's suffering.

Turn your students' attention to the phrase in Isaiah 53:5, "by his stripes (or wounds) we are healed." Ask them, **How are we healed physically? Emotionally? Spiritually?** Their answers will lead into the HeartBeat exercise.

OR

New Testament Isaiah (10 minutes)

This reading activity gives kids another point of view on Isaiah.

Philippians 2:5-11, which many consider to be an early Christian hymn, presents a New Testament response to Isaiah 53. Assign students to read portions of each passage dramatically, alternating between Isaiah and Philippians. For example, the first reader might read Isaiah 53:3. The second could respond with Philippians 2:5-7. The next, Isaiah 53:4-5, and then Philippians 2:8, and so on.

Closing Prayer

Thank God that Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross and healed our souls. Ask the Lord to fill your students' hearts with the wonder of the resurrection.

Pray for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

On Easter Sunday, be prepared for the unexpected. You might have several visitors, or your class size may be smaller than usual. Your students may have eaten lots of chocolate before class, which could cause restlessness. Ask for God's grace, and remember to ABF (always be flexible).

Additional Activities

Easter Story Cookies (15 minutes)

This snack highlights the resurrection.

If your students haven't already experienced the message of Easter Story cookies, or "empty tomb" cookies, it's worth doing. Easter Story Cookies are meringue cookies made with egg whites, vinegar, salt, sugar, and nuts or chocolate chips. Making the cookies in class and reading appropriate Scriptures illustrates aspects of the suffering of Christ. The cookies sit in the oven overnight, and in the morning they come out hollow on the inside, like an empty tomb. To do this during class, complete a batch ahead of time. Bring another set of ingredients to class, prepare them as you tell the story, and put them in the oven. Bring out the already-baked batch so the children can taste one. The recipe and illustrations, which are somewhat lengthy, can be found in several places on the Internet by typing "Easter Story Cookies" into your search engine.

Exalted Servant (5-10 minutes)

This listing activity compares Jesus' servanthood and glory.

Make a simple chart with two columns: Jesus Served Others and God Exalted Jesus. Encourage students to list ways Jesus served others and ways God exalted Jesus.

SUPPLIES ✓

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

None

Spark Interest

•PERSONAL SUFFERING: none
•S-E-R-V-A-N-T: no additional supplies

Explore Scripture

None

Inspire Action

•BY HIS WOUNDS: none
•NEW TESTAMENT ISAIAH: none



DiscipleLand
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DiscipleLand.com 800.284.0158

ISBN 0-86606-832-5



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Print Date: March 2020