



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:1-6 “The Understated Gift”

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What was the favorite Christmas gift you ever received, why? Do you remember what it came wrapped in?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

In what way did people’s expectations of what the Messiah would look like and do impact their reception of Him?

How is what’s inside a gift much more important than what the gift comes wrapped in?

In what ways are we fooled by “appearances” and what we expect from God that may be at odds with God’s will and purposes? Why did God not come wrapped outwardly as a majestic Prince?

In what way do you see the prophecy of Isaiah as a very important “Christmas” message?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Philippians 4:6-13]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How did God, through Isaiah’s prophecy, characterize the actions of the coming Servant? (52:13)

What opposite reactions would people have to the Messiah before and after His suffering? (52:14-15)

What was unbelievable about the message of God’s chosen deliverance? (53:1-3)

What did Isaiah prophesy about the attractiveness of God’s Servant? (53:2-3)

What would actually be happening when people were assuming that God was punishing Jesus? (53:4)

What would the wounds of the Messiah accomplish for all believers? (53:5)

In what way did Isaiah illustrate people’s sinfulness? (53:6)

What has God done with the sin of each human being? (53:6)

How did Isaiah say that the Messiah would respond to mistreatment and suffering? (53:7)

What earthly heritage would remain for the Messiah? (53:8)

In what way would the Messiah’s death not fit the deeds of His life? (53:9)

What was God’s will in relation to the life of His Son? (53:10)

What "satisfaction" did God promise would follow the suffering of the Messiah? (53:11)

Why did Isaiah say that the Messiah would be exalted and "divide the spoils"? (53:12)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Why do you think some people tend to despise those who suffer?

How important is it to be attractive in order to be held in high regard?

What are the different ways in which a person might attract a following?

How is the imagery in God's prophecy of the mission of the Messiah full of meaning?

Why was it necessary for a righteous servant to be the bearer of sins?

What great spiritual treasures were gained for us by the death of Jesus Christ?

What sufferings of Jesus (such as those described in Luke 23:1-56) were foretold in Isaiah 53?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?