

Christ's Sacrifice Is Foretold

Isaiah 53:2-12

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 53:6

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.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Small Ziploc bags (one per child), folded soaked paper towels, mixed seeds and markers.

A “We Like Sheep” template for each child (copied onto white card stock), construction paper, scissors, glue, markers, and cotton.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Carrying Our Burdens

Ask the children to divide up into groups of three. Ask the two biggest children to get on their hands and knees, side by side. Ask the lightest child to lie on top of the other two children. Ask another team of three to do the same and allow the children to race across the room. It will not be easy for them to work together. Keep the children from getting too active so injury does not occur. The object will be to be the first team to the other end without dropping their burden. Allow the other teams to go. Perhaps, the winning team can serve snack to the rest of their classmates.

After playing, ask the children to sit in a circle and think about what it’s like to carry a load. Jesus, willingly, carried the load of all our sins so that we might receive forgiveness and enjoy reconciliation to God.

LESSON TIME!

Isaiah, the prophet warned the people of the judgment that was to come on Israel if they did not turn from their sin and rebellion. The kings and priests were not leading the people to worship and obey the one true God; and, God had to show them He was serious about wanting their full worship and obedience. Yet, in the midst of warning them of the dark consequences of their rebellion, God reminds them of His great, unquenchable love, and introduces the glorious promises of the Redeemer. Redeem means to buy back. The Redeemer would one day come and buy the people back from the slavery of sin, giving them freedom in place of bondage.

How exciting it is that our God told us He was coming as our Redeemer 750 years before it happened! How exciting that Jesus' life and death and resurrection are all fulfilled prophecy from the Old Testament. Jesus said the Old Testament scriptures testify (give clear evidence) of Him (John 5:39). How exciting that God tells us the future and then keeps His promises and makes it happen. **God's Word is sure.**

ISAIAH 53:2-7

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or
comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty
that we should desire Him.

He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of
sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it
were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we
did not esteem Him.

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our
sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by
God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

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.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

These six verses are prophecy (foretelling) of the birth, life, and death on the cross of our Savior Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit chose Isaiah to write about the Savior so the Jewish people could recognize Him when He came. How sad that many did not want to recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He came to earth 750 years later!

Verse 2 speaks of the boyhood of Jesus. Jesus grew up among His own chosen people, the Jews, a Jew Himself. His beginnings were humble. For this reason, the God-man can truly identify with mankind. He was not a superman or an Olympic athlete. He was a good, obedient boy to His mother and a good and helpful older brother. He learned the trade of carpentry from Joseph. “There is no beauty that we should desire Him” would seem to indicate that we will not be attracted to Jesus by physical beauty. This way, again, Jesus can relate to most of us who cannot be defined as “beautiful” physically. Rather than the beautiful form of Jesus, it is the spiritual beauty and love that draws us to Jesus.

Verse 3 says He was despised and rejected. Despised means strongly disliked, or ignored, even hated. Who despised and rejected Him? In John, we read that His own people did not receive Him (John 1:11). The religious leaders, who knew the scriptures and, therefore, should have pointed the people to Him, led the people away from Him.

Jesus was a man of sorrows; He grieved over the pain and suffering man was experiencing and would experience because of their sin and broken fellowship with God. In Luke 13:34, Jesus laments: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!"

Verse 4 says He took our illness upon Himself and He carried our sorrows. Because He lived on earth as a child and grew to be a man, Jesus understood suffering. He understands people suffering with cancer or blindness, and He understands the pain of broken families. He has seen it all.

Jesus suffered and died for us. At the cross, God laid all the brokenness and pain of this world because of sin on Jesus and Jesus shed His blood to heal us of it all. Jesus not only understood our suffering, but He moved to heal us. It may be that some healing--for instance, physical healing--has not happened for us yet. But, even if we must wait until Heaven to experience complete healing, we have His promise--we will be completely whole!

Verse 5 says He was wounded. Do you remember the story of Jesus on the cross? Why was Jesus wounded? What does "transgression" mean? What does "iniquity" mean? The punishment for our sin and error, our failure to keep God's law and make the right choices, is death (spiritual death, separation from God). We deserved such judgment; yet, Jesus suffered the judgment we deserved—death! He died in our place, becoming our Savior.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Has anyone ever watched sheep wander about eating? They do not pay attention to their surroundings. They do not know when there is danger or when they have gotten separated from the flock and become lost. For this reason, the shepherd is so important. We humans are a lot like those sheep. We go where there is danger. We get lost. We forget to stay by our Shepherd. Foolishly, we go our own way. In great love, Jesus, our Shepherd, laid down His life for us (John 10:17,18), bearing the iniquity of us all.

In verse 7, what do you think is the meaning of “oppressed?” It is when others have power over you, and they use it to put you down. What is “afflicted?” It is to be troubled, to have misery or hardship, and to suffer adversity. Though oppressed and afflicted, He did not open His mouth (Mark 14:61; Luke 23:8, 9; John 19:9). Before all of the false charges that came from the chief priest, Herod, and Pilot, Jesus kept quiet. Consider how innocent and quiet lambs are before their shearers—Jesus became as a lamb, suffering for us.

Tender Shoots

In our verses this week, the Messiah (Jesus) is referred to as a “tender shoot or plant” coming forth out of dry ground. Use this activity to talk about what these verses concerning Jesus mean and what God is able to do.

You will need to prepare for this the week before. You will need small Ziploc bags (one per child), folded soaked paper towels, mixed seeds and markers. Prepare one bag a week in advance for a demonstration to the children. Soak the paper towel in water and fold into quarters. Place inside of the plastic bag. Place several seeds on top of the paper towel and seal the bag. Do not place in direct sunlight. At the end of seven days, you should have new shoots beginning to form.

On the day of your class, allow the children to make their own plastic bag planters. Have them write their names on them with markers. After they have done so, show them what theirs will look like in about a week. Talk to the children about how Jesus came as a root out of a spiritually dry people.

ISAIAH 53:8-12

He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

And they made His grave with the wicked; But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

These verses speak of the suffering and crucifixion of our Savior and His resurrection. He suffered oppression from the people; they rejected Him. He suffered the judgment of God for all the sins of all the people. Verse 9 says He was assigned a grave with the wicked. How do we know that happened? He was crucified between two thieves. It also says “with the rich in His death.” Where was He laid? (In the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, John 19:38) Who was that? (See Mark 15:43) “And no deceit was in His mouth” (See 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:5) And what did John the Baptist call Him? (John 1:29) They laid Him to rest, thinking it was all over and that evil had triumphed.

Verse 10 reads, “When You make His soul an offering for sin....” The Jews who believed in Jesus did not understand these verses until after the resurrection. Jesus became the sin offering for us—a fulfillment of the picture God had given to Moses and the Israelites 1,500 years before. One of the five offerings that God commanded the Israelites to offer was called the sin offering—an offering God required in order to demonstrate to the people their sinfulness and need for forgiveness. Once Jesus died on the cross, that offering would never again be necessary for He bore our sins and our salvation is complete (Hebrews 10:10).

Verse 10 also says, He will see His seed and prolong His days. Verse 11 says He shall see the labor of His should and be satisfied. What could bring Jesus pleasure and satisfaction after enduring the pain, suffering, and separation from the Father on the cross? Seeing you! Just seeing those of us who would take His salvation and enjoy fellowship with the Father made it all worth it to Jesus. What incredible love! We read, Jesus, the righteous Servant, will justify many. What does justify mean? (To judge not guilty, to declare innocent.)

When Jesus comes to rule and reign upon the earth, the prophecy in verse 12 will certainly be fulfilled! **God’s Word is sure.**

Not only did Jesus give His life to purchase our forgiveness, He now makes “intercession for the transgressors.” What is intercession? It means to plead with a person; to ask for something for someone else. Jesus intercedes for us as He communes with the Father (see Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

So, 700 years after Isaiah prophesied, our Savior came. He bore our sins. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. His purchased our peace. His stripes purchased our healing. And now, Jesus continually makes intercession to the Father on our behalf. Jesus stands alone in history as the only one who could qualify to be the Savior, the Messiah—the only one who fulfills all these prophecies.

How precious to realize that God not only knew Jesus would suffer for us, He planned it! In Acts, 2:23, we read, “...Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death. In Romans we read, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

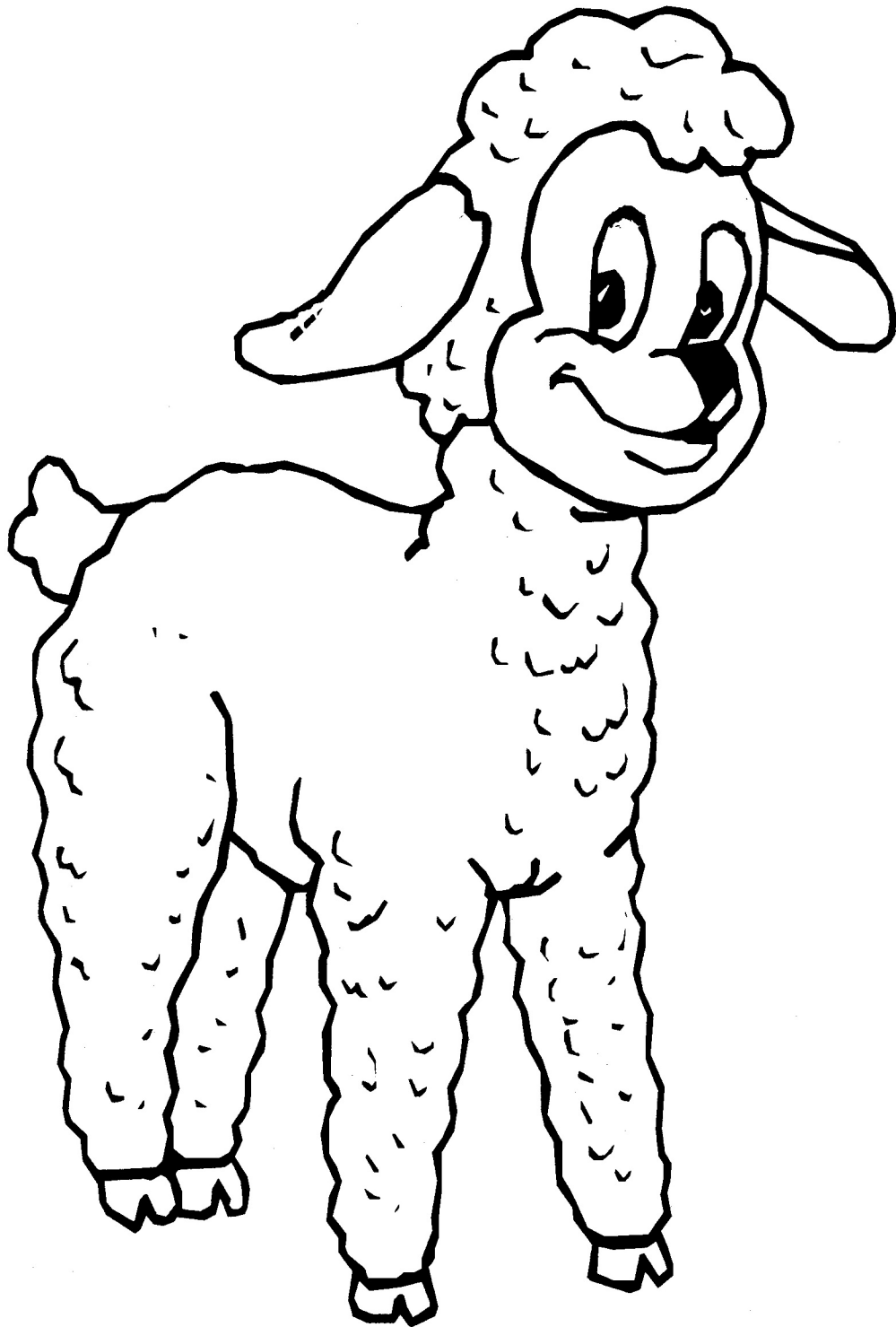
We Like Sheep

We will be making a craft to remind the children of our memory verse for today. You will need a sheep template for each child (copied onto white card stock), construction paper, scissors, glue, markers, and cotton. Using either glue or a glue stick, glue cotton to the lamb for its coat. Next use markers to color in the rest of the lamb. Cut out the lamb and paste onto another sheet of construction paper (any color) and decorate scenery around the lamb. Next, cut out the memory verse and paste onto the construction paper.

The Bible says that all of us like sheep have gone astray. We are all sinners and in need of a Savior, Jesus. Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God who provided the way of salvation. Talk with your class about the different characteristics of sheep and how we are like them in so many ways. We need our Good Shepherd, Jesus.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the Lord giving us His sure Word and sending His Son Jesus as our Savior. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.



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. ISAIAH 53:6