

North Weekly Devotional

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Song: [ISAIAH 53 | A SONG OF SCRIPTURE](#)

Prayer: Father God, as we begin a new year, we pray for your blessings and protection, and thank you for

seeing us through a very challenging and trying past year. Please open our hearts and minds to your word and to your will as we seek you during 2021. Amen.

Text: Isaiah 53: 6-12 (NIV):

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Explanation:

In this passage, Isaiah, speaking over 700 years before Jesus' birth, delivers the prophecy of the "Suffering Servant," whom we now know is Jesus -- God's Son; the ultimate sin offering; the sacrificial Lamb that would provide redemption for all who repent and believe.

Because of our sinful nature, we (humanity) are unable to reach the bar set by God (perfection) and thus save ourselves. As a result, the Servant was sent by God to live this perfect life, and to serve as a substitutionary sacrifice, willingly bearing all the sins of all mankind (v. 6-7) and accepting the punishment that was actually meant for each of us (v. 8). And although the Servant was not honored by the people of

his time (v. 8-9), he would live again (v.10) along with those who have and will receive salvation by acceptance of His sacrifice (v. 11), He would be rewarded by the Father “among the great” (v. 12).

In this passage, Isaiah provides an answer to the question, “How can a just God justify the ungodly? How can He declare innocent those who are guilty? How can He treat bad people as though they are good? How can He love people like us?”

A just God can't just look the other way. He doesn't say, “Don't worry about it,” or “No big deal.” On the contrary, sin is a big deal. God didn't just forgive our sins, He dealt with them. And this grace was costly -- the price was His own Son.

The Point:

We are sinful beings, and sin must be punished. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to take that punishment in our place, so that we might be forgiven by accepting and believing in Him.

Application:

Pre-K & Elementary Age:

Adults, watch the following video/song (“Fifty-Three Verse Six”-see link below) with your children. Pay particular attention to the explanations within the song lyrics of “iniquity” and “laid on Him.” Discuss with them what it means for our sin to be placed on Jesus. **Link:** [Fifty Three Verse Six](#)

Students:

Do you ever wish you could have someone else do your studying for you, yet you receive the knowledge to ace your tests? Do you ever wish you could get another person to do your chores around the house, yet you get credit for them? It would be nice, but life doesn't work that way.

However, there is one exception...Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience and laid down His life for you and *you do* get His credited righteousness and life! And Isaiah told us about how He would do this long before Jesus actually came to earth.

Read Isaiah 53: 6-12, and consider just how much Jesus sacrificed so that YOU might be saved from your sins! And consider just how much the Father loves YOU that He would allow His only Son to experience incredible pain and suffering in *your place*.

Adults:

Have you ever got lost in an unfamiliar place? It is a sick, fearful feeling, and we usually seek some way to get back on track. We may open up a road map, use GPS, or stop and ask for directions. We don't accept remaining lost in these scenarios. So why would we allow ourselves to remain lost in our spiritual lives?

Isaiah compared the nation of Israel to sheep that have gone astray. They were a group seeking their own path instead of following the shepherd's lead. Isaiah 53:6 says all of us, like sheep, are lost. And through Isaiah's prophecy, we have the gift of seeing how Jesus' death and resurrection would cover the penalty of sin for all mankind -- not just Israel. We have the hindsight of knowing how God fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy.

Jesus suffered, was pained, stricken, afflicted, pierced, and crushed on the cross. And He accepted this willingly -- for us.

Song: [Wondrous Love](#)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the love you have demonstrated for us by sending us your Son. And while the image of the baby Jesus in the manger is what we so often think of at this time of year, we pray that you never allow us to forget or overlook the image of the Son 33 years later, bearing *our* sins on the cross, willingly accepting the pain, suffering, and humiliation that *should* have been placed on us. We thank you for loving us and for saving us through your Son, and for guiding us now and always!