

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

In today’s lesson we will be learning about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. He took all of our sins upon Himself so that we could receive forgiveness for our sins. This game will be a fun way to introduce our lesson. We will imagine what it is like to carry a load.

Have the children divide up into groups of three. Have the two biggest children get on their hands and knees, side by side. Have the lightest child lay on top of the other two children. Have another team of three do the same and allow the children to race across the room. It won’t be that easy as they have to work together. Keep the children from getting too active to where an injury may occur. The object will be to be the first team to the other end without dropping their burden. Allow the other teams to go as well. The winning team gets the privilege of serving snack to the rest of their classmates.

After playing have the children sit in a circle and share what they must have thought it was like for Jesus to carry the burden of all of our sins.

LESSON TIME!

We've been learning a lot about Jesus in the Old Testament haven't we? But isn't the New Testament about Jesus? It certainly is. Actually you can read about Jesus throughout the entire Bible, Old and New Testament. Isaiah had a lot to say about the coming Messiah (Jesus) – 750 years before He was born!

Isaiah also talked a lot about the judgment of Israel. God was judging Israel because of their disobedience. The kings and priests were not leading the people to worship and obey the one true God. God had to show them He was serious about wanting their worship and obedience so He was letting them know through the prophet Isaiah that after the judgment there would come One who would redeem the nation and the people. Redeem is a fancy word for buy back. The Redeemer was going to come and buy the people back from slavery to sin, from bondage to freedom.

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. 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 all prophecy (foretelling) concerning the birth, life and death on the cross of our savior Jesus. The Holy Spirit chose Isaiah to write about the Savior so the Jewish people could recognize Him when He came. Unfortunately for many of them, they did not want to recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He came to earth 750 years later. **God's word is sure.**

Verse 2 speaks of His boyhood, how He grew up right among His own chosen people, the Jews, a Jew Himself. He wasn't a superman or an Olympic athlete or a genius child. He was a good, obedient boy to His mother; He was a good and helpful older brother, and He learned the trade of carpentry from Joseph.

Verse 3 says He was despised and rejected, familiar with suffering. Despised means not liked or ignored, even hated. How sad was our

Lord's heart that people did not want what He had to offer (see John 7:1-5). Even His own family didn't believe Him. Who despised and rejected Him? It was mainly the religious leaders. The very leaders, who should have pointed the people to Him because they were supposed to know the scriptures, led them away from Him. And there were a lot of people who followed those leaders' opinions and decisions. People who like what Jesus said but were afraid their reputation or positions at the synagogue would be taken away if someone found out they wanted to follow Jesus of Nazareth. (John 3:2; 7:12, 13; 19:3)

Verse 4 says He took up our illness and He carried our sorrows. Because He lived on earth as a child and grew to be a man, He knows what sorrow is. He understands how hard it is for us to obey sometimes, to get along with our brothers and sisters. He understands people suffering with cancer or blindness and He understands the pain of broken up families. He has seen it all. At the cross God laid all the brokenness and pain of this world because of sin on Jesus and He shed His blood to heal us of it all. Maybe the healing hasn't happened yet, but we have His promise that it will happen. (see Psalm 103) And we know that our God tells us the future and then keeps His promises to make them happen.

Verse 5 says He was pierced. Do you remember the story of Jesus on the cross? What did one Roman soldier do to Him? (John 19:34) What do you think the big words transgression and iniquities mean? Yes, sin, error, unrighteousness, an offense against God's law (on purpose or not), failure to make good choices. God says that the punishment for these things is death. That's what happened to Jesus. That's why we look to Him as our way to salvation. His death is a substitute for our death. Are we talking about death to our physical bodies? No, we're talking about our spiritual self – our spirit. Spiritual death is separation from God.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Has anyone ever watched sheep wander about eating? They do not pay attention to their

surrounding. They do not know when there is danger or when they have gotten separated from the flock and become lost. That is why sheep dogs and shepherds are so important. We humans are a lot like those sheep. The Bible tells us about this in John 10 and Psalm 23. We go where there is danger; we get lost, we forget to stay by our Shepherd. That is one of the reasons the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all at the cross.

In verse 7 what do you think is the meaning of “oppressed”? 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. Yet 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 & Pilot, Jesus kept quiet. How quiet lambs are before their shearers, how innocent. That was how our Savior Jesus acted. **God’s word is sure.**

Tender Shoots

In our verses this week the Messiah (Jesus) is referred to as “tender shoot or plant” coming forth out of dry ground. Use this activity to talk about what these verses mean concerning Jesus and as a demonstration of what God can 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 out of a spiritually dry people Jesus came. That the prophecies of these verses are referring to Jesus.

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 crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior. The things He would suffer. 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 - The Jews who believed in Jesus didn't understand until after the resurrection. God the Father made His life a guilt offering. That was a fulfillment of the picture He had given to Moses and the Israelites 1,500 years before in the desert. One of the 5 offerings that God commanded them to offer was called the guilt offering. It was required by God to show the people that they were sinners and needed to be forgiven. Then Jesus died on the cross as that offering so they would never again need to make a guilt offering. If only they would look to Him. Verse 10 also says He will see His offspring and prolong His days. How can that happen unless He is alive? Jesus rose again from the grave. How exciting that we have a God who tells us the future and then keeps His promise to make it happen. **God's word is sure.**

Verse 11 is very special because it talks about His resurrection. That's the fourth time in our verses that iniquity is spoken of. What does that word mean? (see above) And this is the 4th time in our verse that our Savior takes those iniquities upon Himself. He is the one who does the suffering instead of us. Wow! And what does justify mean? To judge not guilty, to say you are innocent.

Verse 12 is talking about His future rule over all the nations. This is a prophecy still to come. We have a lot to look forward to as God's children. We are waiting for Him to come back and set up a heavenly kingdom on this earth. (See also Isaiah 9:6,7) He is worthy of all this power because He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. He bore the sin of many

and made intercession for the transgressors. What is that big word transgressor again? This world is mentioned 4 times in our verses also. (See also Psalm 51:2; 32:5) What is intercession? It means to plead with a person; to ask for something for someone else. Jesus does that for us with the Father (See Romans 8:26,27; Hebrews 7:25).

So our Savior, Jesus, carried our sicknesses, our iniquities, and our punishments. He asks the Father to make us not guilty; He makes our heart clean. Remember 750 years before it happened, in real life God told His people what was going to happen. We have a lot to be thankful for don't we? We have a God who tells us the future, and keeps His promises. **God's word is sure.**

We Like Sheep

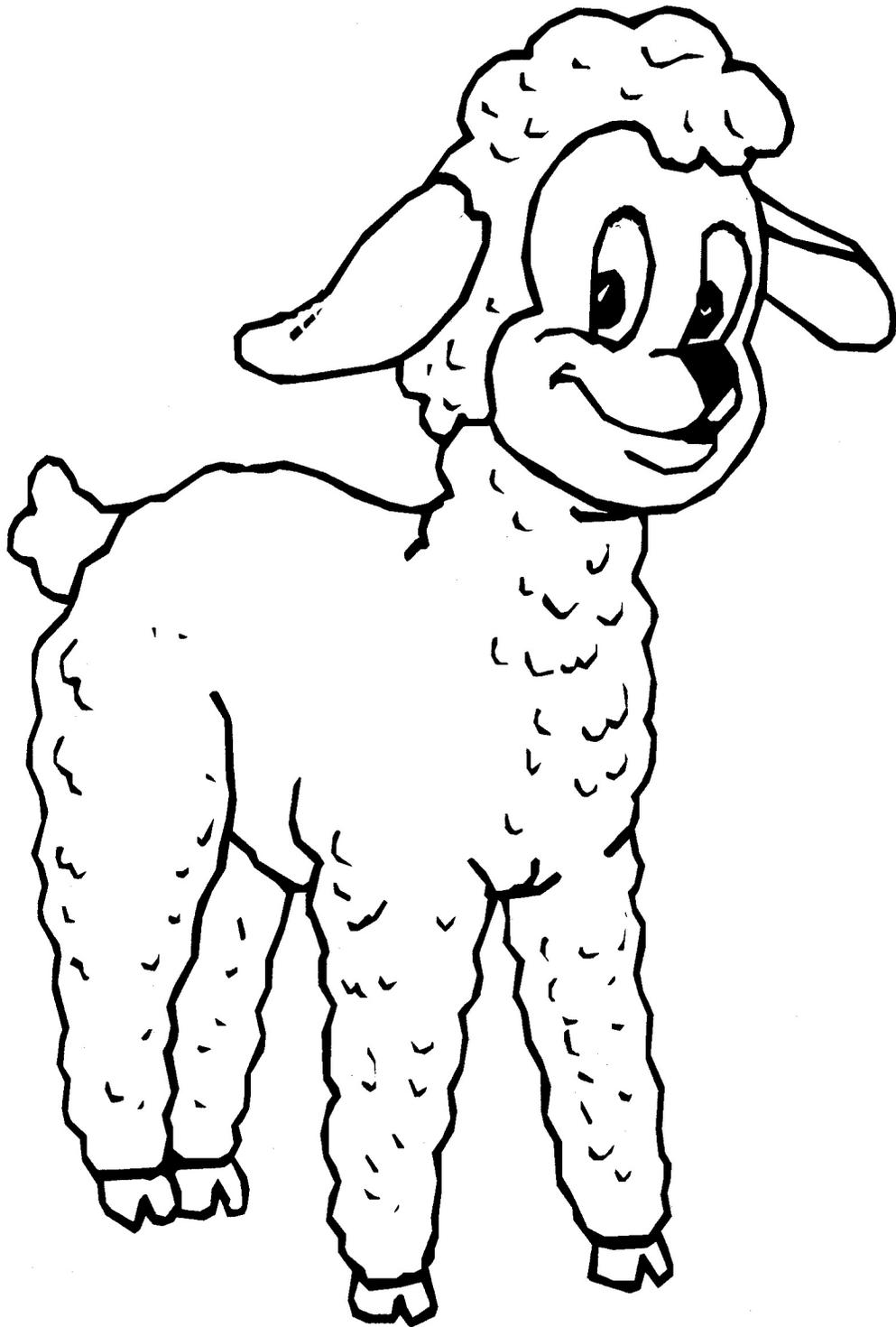
The Bible says that all of us like sheep have gone astray. We are all sinners and in need of a Savior, Jesus. Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God who provided the way of salvation. We will be making a craft to remind the children of our memory verse for today.

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.

Talk with your class about the different characteristics of sheep and how we are like them in so many ways. Especially tie in our need for the Good Shepherd – Jesus.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the Lord giving us His Word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.



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