



SHARING LIFE

- How have you experienced God this week?
- Do you need any help from God in your life?
- ▶ Pray together: Thank God for experiences, ask for God's help.



REVIEW

- What did we discuss last time?
- Tell each other as honestly as possible in what areas you have had to choose between God and the snake and where you need to be forgiven.
- How are the people that you are caring for doing? What would help them most?
- Did you get a chance to share a God experience with someone? Did you pray for someone?
- ▶ Pray together, that you may get to know new aspects of God and that your friendship with God would be strengthened and become deeper.



BIBLE STUDY - ISAIAH 52:13-53:12, JOHN 1:29-34

- Read the text quietly
- Read the text out loud
- Retell the text (from memory – closed Bibles)
- Contributions from the group to complement



Sharing personal issues should not take up more than 1/3 of the evening.

Split groups of more than seven.

General questions:

- Is there anything that struck you in this text?
 - » What do you like about it?
 - » Is there anything in it that bothers you?
 - » What does it say about God?
 - » What does it say about humans?

Specific Questions

- Who is the person these texts are talking about?
- What has he done for us (Isaiah 53:4-5)?
- Why did he do it (Isaiah 53:11)?

Applying the text

- If what we've read is true, how will it change:
 - » my image of God?
 - » my behavior towards people, animals, nature?
 - » my way of life?



CHALLENGES

- Take some time to think about the fact that someone took the responsibility for your wrongs and took the punishment for them. How does that make you feel? Write your thoughts down.
- Do you know someone who is in difficulty but it is their own fault? Who? And how can/will you help that person?
- Where do I have an opportunity in the next week to share my experiences with God with someone and invite them to start a friendship with God?



COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Last time we read about God announcing a new age. Today we will learn about how this is to come about (a practical plan). God will send «his servant». That means a man who will live exactly as God wants us to. Despite committing no sin or wrong, this man will die like a criminal. For the mission of God's servant will be to take humankind's sickness, pain and sin upon himself. This will not be a pretty sight, quite the opposite.

The people around him will despise and turn away from him. They will think that he is a criminal who is being punished by God for his awful deeds. But really he will not be punished for what he himself did, but for what all humans under the influence of evil have done. This servant of God will take the responsibility for our wrong doing. He will be executed instead of us sinful people so we can have peace again; peace with God and peace with others.

John 1:29-34

John (the Baptist) was a prophet who was sent by God to prepare Israel for the coming of his servant (read Isaiah 52-53). In this passage he identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, who takes the sins of the world upon himself. In other words, John is saying that Jesus is the long awaited Savior who will free humanity from the power of evil. To do that he will take humanity's sins upon himself and take the punishment for them.



YOUR NOTES

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.