

# PORTRAIT OF SUBSTITUTION

Isaiah 53:1-11

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March 31, 2019

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- How closely have you been following March Madness? Did you predict any upsets? What does your bracket look like right now? Don't worry if your bracket is busted - the odds of having a perfect bracket are 1 in 9.2 quintillion!
- There are over 300 predictions in the Old Testament that point to Jesus in the New Testament. The odds of any man fulfilling these prophecies, even up to the present time, has been estimated to be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (10 to the 17th power).
- In light of this, how might you talk to people who don't believe Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Isaiah 52:13 - 53:6. In his message, Pastor Pat uncovered five pictures of Jesus' substitution.

### 1. Behold Him Exalted (Isaiah 52:13)

- a. As a group, explain how Jesus was exalted through the crucifixion.
- b. Read Galatians 6:13. What would it look like to live in a way that boasts only in the cross?

### 2. Behold His Humiliation (Isaiah 52:14 and 53:2)

- a. When you picture Jesus in your mind, how do you see Him? How does this passage change the image you have of Jesus?
- b. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus understands what it means to be humiliated?

### 3. Behold His Compassion (Isaiah 53:3-4a)

- a. What are some of your favorite Bible stories about Jesus having compassion on people?
- b. Talk about a time when you sensed that Jesus was carrying you, or having compassion on you.

### 4. Behold Him Rejected (Isaiah 53:4b New Living Translation)

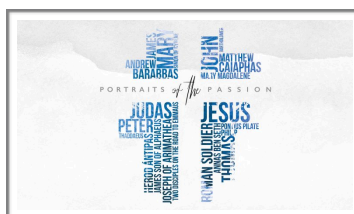
- a. Most people would not admit to "rejecting" Jesus, but sometimes Christians think they can accept Jesus, then live as though they have rejected Him. Are there times when this is true for you?
- b. How does the truth of the gospel prevent you from living that way consistently?

### 5. Behold His Substitution (Isaiah 53:5-6)

- a. Everything that happened to Jesus should have happened to us. He didn't die for His own sins, He died for our's. Read through the passage again out loud (next page), and substitute your own name where you see the underlined pronouns.
- b. What is your immediate response to this exercise? What will your long-term response be?

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, pray: Jesus, thank you for giving your life for me. In response, I will live my life for you.



## Isaiah 53:1-6 (New Living Translation, edited)

*Read out loud, and substitute your own name for the underlined pronouns.*

### *Verse 1*

Who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?

### *Verse 2*

My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.

### *Verse 3*

Jesus was despised and rejected - a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. *I* turned my back on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and *I* did not care.

### *Verse 4*

Yet it was my weaknesses he carried; it was my sorrows that weighed him down. And *I* thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

### *Verse 5*

But he was pierced for my rebellion, crushed for my sins. He was beaten so *I* could be whole. He was whipped so *I* could be healed.

### *Verse 6*

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. *I* have left God's paths to follow my own. Yet the Lord laid on him my sins and the sins of my Cell Group.