

MAIN POINT

It was God's will to crush Jesus, so that we could receive salvation.

INTRODUCTION

What is a story you've read or movie you've seen where a main character dies? What reaction did you have?

When you hear about real accounts of tragic suffering or unexpected death, are you likely to ponder why such events happen? Explain.

This is the final week in our series on Isaiah 53. In today's passage, we read that God was at work in Jesus' suffering and death (53:10). Jesus suffered on behalf of others--taking on Himself the punishment that others deserved. Incredibly, God allowed His innocent Servant to suffer as a means by which the guilty could be forgiven and declared righteous.

DISCUSSION

> READ ISAIAH 53:8-12.

What specific details of Jesus' death were foretold by Isaiah in these verses?

What do these verses tell us about the depth of God's love toward us?

According to verse 10, who chose to make the Servant suffer? Why did God want His Servant to endure such terrible things?

How is it possible that this would please the Lord?

What was God's ultimate plan in permitting the Servant's brutal suffering and death? How do others benefit from the Servant's sacrificial death?

According to verses 10-12, what would happen to the Servant as a result of His redemptive work? How could the Servant feel satisfied after such anguish?

How can people be justified by the work of the suffering Servant, Jesus?

What is the "portion" and "spoil" of Jesus that is divided with us, though we are the transgressors who made His death necessary?

APPLICATION

How do you need to respond to Jesus' sacrifice on your behalf?