

Devotes Lives Session 15 | Easter Session | The Crucified Servant | Isaiah 52:13-53:8

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

Introduction

This series goes through the biblical narrative learning from people within it what it looks like to passionately seek God, living lives fully devoted to him. We trust this will stir us up as a church to live lives passionately pursuing him.

IN – Who is at the table? Spend 10 minutes catching up with each other if you haven't done so already and pray for those who are absent today - why not drop them an encouraging a text message.

OUT - Who is missing from the table? Spend 10 minutes praying for the salvation of your non-Christian friends, family and associates, ensuring you include those who live here in Leicester.

UP - Where is Jesus at the table? Spend 30 minutes studying scripture which should lead you into a time of worship and seeking His presence for the remaining time you have together.

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:8

1. This prophecy has great fulfilment in the life of Jesus. Which parts can you see are directly fulfilled, and when? Are there any you don't think have been?
2. Why does the Messiah suffer the way he does according to Isaiah? What is explained in the details of how this works, and what remains shrouded in mystery to be later revealed?
3. How does this description of the Messiah help bring comfort to us during different types of suffering that we can experience?
4. Compare what is said about the coming Messiah with the other 'servant songs' of Isaiah that do the same (Isaiah 42:1–9; 49:1–13; Isaiah 50:4–11). How do the previous three songs find a sudden climax and fulfilment in this one? How does this speak to how God sometimes speaks to us through prophecy and other means?
5. What are the most surprising parts of this prophecy to its original readers and those of Jesus's times? What does this say about our understand of how God works today?

Noting what the Lord has said to you about seeking and waiting, spend time in worship, prayer and seeking his presence. As you respond to this study, spend time in prayer.

Devoted Lives Session 16 | The Resurrected Lord | John 20:19-31

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Read John 20:19-31

- 1) Jesus' disciples had deserted Him at the cross (Matt 26:56) and were now hiding in fear (verse 19). In light of their failure and shame, how do the risen Jesus' repeated words 'Peace be with you' speak to our own fears, failures, and sense of unworthiness today?
- 2) In what ways does Jesus' gracious response to Thomas' doubt reveal the heart of the Gospel? (See Luke 15:20, Romans 5:8) How does verse 29 encourage our faith today even when we cannot physically see the risen Christ?
- 3) How does the stated purpose of John's Gospel challenge us to consider the goal of our faith — what does it truly mean to 'have life in his name' (verses 30–31)?

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Devoted Lives Session 17 | The Eternal King | Psalm 2

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Read The Eternal King (Psalm 2)

1. This Psalm describes the King above all other kings. What does this Psalm, in particular verses 4-6, tell us about the security and permanence of the rule of this King?
2. In verse 6, God's holy mountain is referenced. What significant moments in the Bible happen on mountains? What do you think "Zion, my holy mountain" means and why is it significant?
3. How do we "serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling?" (verse 11)
4. This King is someone who terrifies people with his wrath (vs 5) but also is someone who people can take refuge in (vs 12). How do we as Christians deal with these quite contrasting parts of God's character?

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