



LENT 2026

Week 2: Restored Relationships

Read or listen again to Isaiah 52: 13- 53:12

- a. What stuck out to you?
- b. What were the images of pain?
- c. What were the images of ugliness?
- d. What were the images of redemption?

For Discussion:

1. In Isaiah 53:6, we read that we are like sheep that have gone astray, everyone to his own way.
 - a. What does it mean that God is our Shepherd?
 - b. What does the shepherd image tell us about God's desire for relationship with us?
 - c. How does Isaiah 53:6 relate to our relationship with God?

2. Go through the whole passage verse by verse and note all the times we see, hear or understand something. How has our perception failed to perceive God truthfully, especially now knowing that the suffering servant is Jesus (God)?
3. Jesus tells us that the two most important commandments are to love the Lord your God with all (that you are) and to love your neighbor as yourself. In the suffering servant we see that he shows immense love for us. How do we respond?
 - a. In this passage what do we see is wrong in our relationship with
 - God?
 - The Suffering Servant?
 - b. What is broken in society's relationship with God?
4. In Isaiah 53:4, we see the suffering servant bearing our griefs and sorrows. We all need someone to walk with us and take on our grief.
 - a. What does it mean that we see the suffering servant as deserving punishment, even though he is acting out sacrificial love?
 - b. What does it mean for us, in light of Jesus Christ, to see that the Suffering Servant bore our griefs and sorrows and was punished for it?
5. Why do we need the Suffering Servant to bear our iniquities, sin, transgressions, etc.? What would it mean if he didn't?

- a. What would it mean for us to die in our evil?
 - b. How could a wayward sheep guide itself back?
 - c. How could a person, when society itself has been broken, ever find healing?
6. Why do you think we can't see, hear or understand God until he does take on all this evil?
- a. How then is Jesus, The Suffering Servant, the way to see God?
7. In some versions of Isaiah 52:13, we see all the nations being “sprinkled” or “cleansed.” This word in the Hebrew Bible has deep connections with Temple practices. Particularly, the sprinkling of the crowd with blood at Yom Kippur, Passover, and the sprinkling of the priest before entering the Holy of Holies. In our Christian context, we also relate this to our baptism in Christ which happens with the sprinkling of water. This image carries connotations of cleansing, purifying, being set right, being made Holy and able to approach God like we were in The Garden. In light of this, what does it mean to be sprinkled by the Suffering Servant, especially as we see him as the sacrificial lamb before slaughter vs.7?
8. What does this passage tell us about how much God desires to have a relationship with us? How far is God willing to go to have a relationship with us?
9. In 53:10-12 what hope is realized through the restoration of our relationship with God?

Reflective Prayer Time:

- Take some time to reflect on how your broken relationship with God has already been healed.
- Take some time to reflect on where in your life you still don't see, hear or understand God or where you ignore his presence.
- Take some time to reflect on what your relationship with God has meant for you.
- Take some time to reflect on what further hope a relationship with God could mean.

Some Suggested Questions for Ongoing Reflection:

- What does it mean as a sheep to go our own way?
- What does it mean to be like a wayward sheep, found and brought back into the fold?
- Who are the Suffering Servant's offspring? And why?
- Why does the Suffering Servant's actions lead to the pleasure of God?
- How could trusting in this Suffering Servant (Jesus), bring us to good relationships? (See 53:5)
- How does Jesus lead us to peace, family and healing?