



## **“Lent | Getting Ready for Hope: The Suffering Servant” March 19**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Excluding Jesus, with whom would you want to have dinner? During our recent St. Paul's ministry team retreat, answers varied from Genghis Khan, Martin Luther King Jr, Mao Zedong, and even “my grandmother who I never met.”
2. How would you describe the role of the prophets in the Bible? How do they, or how might they, add to your understanding of the Bible?
3. If you were living in the 700 years after Isaiah and before Jesus, how might you interpret the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 (actually starting in 52:13)? In what ways could it be good news, and in what ways could it be difficult news?
4. Among the many prophetic descriptions of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53, which one points most clearly to Jesus for you?
5. Isaiah 53:3 describes the Suffering Servant as “a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity.” Which of these is most impactful for you and why?
  - a. Jesus's suffering shows God's empathy and solidarity to the brokenness and pain of humanity.
  - b. Your own experiences of suffering bring you closer to Jesus's experiences at the cross.

## Isaiah 53:2-6,10-12

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the Lord makes[a] his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life[b] and be satisfied[c];  
by his knowledge[d] my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,[e]  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,[f]  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.