

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, September 24, 2023**

**Passage: Isaiah 52:13–15**

Memory Passage: Isaiah 52:13–15

### **DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 52:13–53:12.** We'll cover the fourth Servant Song over the next five weeks. Today, read the entire song (52:13-53:12) and identify its divisions, give each division a title representing its content, and explain how the sections are related.
- (b) What similarities do you see between this fourth Servant Song and the other three (42:1–9; 49:1–6; 50:4–9)?
- (c) In what ways does this fourth Servant Song serve as the climax of the first three?
- (d) How might those in Babylonian captivity have received this Servant Song (i.e., would they have been shocked, saddened, confused, happy, etc., especially considering earlier passages like 9:1–7, 11:1–15, 42:1–9, et al.)? Explain your answer.

### **DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 52:13–15.** Who speaks in v. 13?
- (b) “Act wisely” in v. 13 refers to actions that lead to success (see ESV footnote). What success will the Servant achieve?
- (c) What do the terms “high and lifted up ... exalted” tell you about the identity of this Servant (cf. 6:1, 33:5, 10; 57:15)?
- (d) Given what the rest of this Servant Song teaches, why is v. 13 surprising, and why is it needed?

### **DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 52:13–15.** Who are the “many” who are astonished (v. 14a)?
- (b) To whom does “you” refer in v. 14a (note the shift from “he” [v. 13] to “you” [v. 14a] to “his” [14b, c])?
- (c) Why are the many so astonished (cf. v14b, c)?
- (d) Should this kind of suffering surprise us? Why or why not (cf. 49:4, 7; 50:6)?

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 52:13–15.** What does “sprinkle” bring to mind when you think of OT biblical theology (see, for instance, Lev 4:6; 5:9; 8:11, 30; 16:14, 19), and what does this signify in the context of the fourth Servant Song?
- (b) How does v. 15a connect with v. 14a (note the structure: “As ... so” and the repetition of “many”)?
- (c) What is it that kings “see” and “understand” (v. 15c, d) that causes them to “shut their mouths” (v. 15b)?
- (d) How does Paul use v. 15c-d in Romans 15:21 (i.e., what point does he make)? How does this help us understand what Isaiah means here?

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Is. 52:13–15.** In what ways did v. 13 bring comfort to those in Babylonian captivity? In what ways does v. 13 bring comfort and encouragement to you as you read this section in light of the entire fourth Servant Song?
- (b) How does Jesus fulfill v. 13? How does he fulfill v. 14? How does he fulfill v. 15?
- (c) Do the descriptions of Jesus’s suffering cause you to be “astonished” (a strong word that carries the idea of being “appalled” or “struck with dread”)? How *should* the suffering of Jesus make you feel? How should you respond when you contemplate Jesus’ suffering and death during the Lord’s Supper?
- (d) What truths found in these three verses help strengthen and empower your evangelism? Explain your answer.
- (e) What other applications can you draw from these three verses? This can be difficult because we are not applying the entire Servant Song, but we can still see these verses in light of the Song as a whole and in light of the NT.

**DATE: Sept. 24, 2023****PASSAGE: Isaiah 52:13–15***The 4<sup>th</sup> Servant Song Verse 1: High, Lifted Up, and Exalted*