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Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 47**

Lesson Title: Suffering Servant – Isaiah 53

Take Home Point: Jesus took our punishment, so we could go free.

Warm-Up:

In the book *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, the main character, Christian, carries a heavy load on his back. He has been reading a book that warns him of sin and its consequences, and the more he reads, the more his burden weighs him down. His burden is recognized sin, and he does not know how to get rid of it. The more Christian reads his book, the more the weight of his sin presses him down. Then he meets a man named Evangelist who tells him how to be rid of the burden. "Follow this path to the cross of Jesus Christ." When he reaches the cross, his burden comes loose from his shoulders and rolls into a nearby open grave, never to be seen or felt again. Christian is surprised, for he does nothing to remove the burden; it comes off his back at the sight of the cross.

Read: Isaiah 52:13—53:12; 1 Peter 2:24-25

Observation (What happened?):

According to Isaiah 53:4, what contrast exists between reality and our perspective?

List all the various terms of suffering used about Jesus Christ in these verses.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that his wounds heal us?

Who do you think are the Suffering Servant's descendants as mentioned in Isaiah 53:10?

Insight:

In a poem of the cross, Thomas Kelly wrote of the suffering Jesus took on our behalf:

"Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected, yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'tis the true and faithful word.
Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave.
Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great;
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God."

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Shepherd? How do you live as though it is true?

Contemplate what it means that the Son of God took your punishment so you could go free.

Kingdom Quest year 2