



**DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS**  
**16 & 17 OCTOBER 2021**  
**ISAIAH 52:13-53:12**

The main study guide material for the sermon series “Seeing the Light through Isaiah”, is to be purchased at <https://www.ivpress.com/isaiah-40-66-ebook>

The material in this document is intentionally brief. It is intended as a supplement only.

- **Begin by reading the Scripture passage together.**
- **Review the video of the sermon if needed (see <http://www.brnc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).**
- **Refer to the [main study guide](#) *Chapter 6* as well as this supplementary material.**
- **Feel free to discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.**
- **Remember to budget some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another, before ending your group session.**

## **Sidebox: God's Servant to bring Salvation**

### Salvation from the immediate problem of Exile

Earlier in Isaiah, we learnt of how the Israelites went into exile after they were taken captive by Babylon. God then raised up Cyrus, a Persian emperor who overthrew Babylon and allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem.

### Salvation from the greater problem of sin

However, this is not the end of the story as the Israelites (and the world) still have hearts corrupted by sin. In chapter 51, Isaiah speaks of about a wider and greater salvation that will be for all peoples, and last for eternity (51:4-6).

### Who is the Servant who will achieve this great salvation?

In Chapter 52, Isaiah describes what this salvation will look like, and in the passage Isaiah 52:12 – 53:12, the Servant who will carry this out is described in cinematic detail. This is the fourth and final "Servant song" in the book of Isaiah. The others are at Isa 42:1-4; 49:1-6; and 50:4-7. Isaiah 42 was covered two weeks ago, and you may wish to look at the other two songs in your own time.

### Who is the Servant? (... continued)

#### A Strange King

- The servant will be someone who is exalted as king (52:13). But his appearance would make him seem like the least likely candidate! He is described as being disfigured beyond human likeness (52:14), with no form or majesty, despised and rejected by mankind (53:2-3).

#### A Suffering Prophet

- The servant will be a prophet who suffers remarkably: He was "despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" (53:3), "he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities" (53:5a).
- What is striking is that he accepts this suffering: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth", "led like a lamb to the slaughter" (53:7).
- Why? Not that he deserved it, but that doing so could make them whole. "the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (53:5b).

#### A Sacrificed Priest

- Why was a sacrifice needed? Israel's real problem was not political or military, but the problem of sin, and God has made the servant's life an offering for sin/guilt (53:10).
- After this sacrifice God will transform and exalt the servant, and will justify and transform His people as well (53:11).

### Jesus: The only one who fits the bill

We now know that the only one who could fully play the role of this servant as Unlikely King, Suffering Prophet and Sacrificed Priest is Jesus. Despised and rejected, and pierced for our transgressions on the cross, he is the only one who can and has secured this great salvation mentioned in Isaiah.

