

WEEK 2 - THE SAVIOR WHO BEARS OUR PAIN

OVERVIEW

As we continue to explore the meaning of pain in our world and the actions God is taking to heal it, we must wrestle with the most provocative idea of all: that God sent his own Son to not only *heal* our pain, but to *bear our pain with us*. How does it change our understanding of our own pain to know that Christ is "a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief" (Isaiah 53:3)? How might we experience our pain of mind, body, and spirit knowing that our savior is, in many ways, there with us right in the middle of it? Even more challenging: as Christ's representatives in the world, what does it look like for us to willingly share in the pain of others like Jesus?

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down...
He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

By his wounds you are healed. **1 Peter 2:24**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Read Romans 8:22. Give some examples of pain that you see around you.
- 2. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:3. What is the human reaction when others are suffering?
- 3. Read <u>Isaiah 53:4-12</u>, <u>John 3:17</u>, and <u>1 Peter 2:24</u>. What is the purpose of the pain of the "suffering servant"? Do you think there is a purpose to human suffering?
- 4. Have you ever suffered pain for others? If so, in what way?
- **5.** Amy said that he knows our pain, he carried our pain, and he bears our pain. Read <u>Romans 8:34</u> and <u>Hebrews 7:25</u> What does this mean to you? Does it make living in pain any easier?
- 6. Read 1 Peter 2:21. How could people see Jesus in YOUR suffering?
- 7. Read <u>Galatians 6:2</u> Who is part of the community that bears your burdens? What does that mean to you? Have you carried a burden for someone? If so, in what role?
- 8. How do you find hope while living in pain?