

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 5 :: The Suffering Servant

Treasure Story: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Whenever you are going through a difficult time, the thing you want more than anything is relief. In today's Treasure Story, the prophet Isaiah is speaking to the children of Israel who have been conquered by foreign nations and are in exile. He tells them that relief is coming, but it is not the kind of relief they are expecting. The kind of relief that Isaiah predicts is not limited to deliverance from worldly oppression. What he offers them is news of a coming Messiah who will suffer greatly but by His suffering will purchase freedom from sin.

Connect

"...what God has done in Christ exhausts all that God has to do for us."

– R. C. Lucas

Like the audience to whom Isaiah is speaking, we all are seeking relief from something. What Isaiah wisely reminds us, however, is that despite our earthly circumstances, we have already been offered the greatest relief God can give us. He sent His Son to suffer greatly so that we would not be separated from Him for eternity. God also offers us His Son as a source of refuge and comfort (Matthew 11:28). Here are a few ways to remember that Jesus is our relief from all that robs us of our joy:

- **Jesus Name Cards:** Take some time with your children to read Isaiah 9:6. Put each name for Jesus that is in this verse on an index card and then place the cards in a safe place. Whenever you or your children are facing difficulties, pick out one of Jesus' names that applies to your situation. Then write a short sentence on the back of the card describing how that particular name for Jesus brings you comfort.
- **Right Before Your Eyes:** When your children are not present, take a sheet of paper and draw a big picture of a cross or some other symbol that relates to Jesus. Call your children into the room and have them sit down but instruct them to keep their eyes shut. Put the piece of paper right in front of them touching their eyes and nose. Ask them to open their eyes and tell you what they see. They likely won't be able to accurately describe what is on the paper. After they are done guessing, pull the paper away from their face and let them see the picture. Explain to them that sometimes we have trouble seeing the comfort we have in Christ because we are in the middle of hard times. Yet no matter how difficult our circumstances, Jesus is there and wants to be our refuge.

My Mission As Parent

- Are you facing a difficult situation? How do you usually respond to trials and temptations?
- How do you involve your children in prayer when your family is facing a difficult situation?
- What can you do to reinforce to your children that Jesus has suffered for us so that we can find our rest and comfort in Him?

Prayer Points

- Speak to the Lord about the things that you are facing. Tell Him what is hurting you and ask for Him to help you find relief in Christ.
- Pray for the Lord to remind you not to try and handle things on your own but to receive the grace that Jesus offers.
- Praise the Lord for sending Jesus to suffer so that we can find comfort and joy despite our circumstances.