

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

EPISODE 4: MESSIAH IS PROMISED

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Main Points

Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:

- Descendants of Abraham through Isaac become the nation of Israel
- As time passes, the prophets of Israel foretell the coming of a great leader, chosen and sent by God to save his people from their sins
- This coming leader is called the Messiah – the anointed one. He will be the Lord’s Servant who works to accomplish God’s great plan.
- Although the Messiah will be great, he will also undergo great suffering and even death so that we might be healed and brought back to God

EXPLORING THE STORY

◀ Look Back

Before diving into this week’s session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:

1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

3. Review

Quickly summarize where we’ve been before moving into this week’s story:

“ **Last time...** God chose Abraham and promised him a miracle child – a son named Isaac. God then made a covenant with Abraham: Only those born through Isaac received the covenant to be God’s people. Isaac had a son named Jacob, and in the centuries that followed, his descendants became a nation – the people of Israel. Over the years God guided Israel and sent them prophets, many of whom foretold of a coming leader who would be sent from God: the Messiah.

▲ Look Up

Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.

4. Setting the Stage

“ This week we'll see how God promised to send the Messiah, the one who would accomplish God's work by suffering and dying for his people. Around 700 BC, the prophet Isaiah wrote powerfully about the coming Messiah, who he called the Lord's Servant.

As we read, be thinking about these things:

- What work will this servant be sent to accomplish?
- What does this teach us about humanity? What does it teach us about God?

5. Read **Isaiah 52.13-53.12** and then discuss:

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- What do you like about this reading? What questions do you have about it?
 - What do we learn about God's Servant? How would you describe him?
 - What does this reading teach us about ourselves?
 - What does it teach us about God and his plan?
 - What were the ultimate results of the Servant's suffering and death? How did God plan to use this suffering to accomplish his good purposes? (vs. 53.5, 10-11)
 - How does Jesus fulfill Isaiah's prophecy about the Suffering Servant?

► Look Ahead

Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.

6. Implications and Applications

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- Isaiah 53.2-3 says the Lord's Servant is one whom men will overlook and devalue. How have you been overlooking him? What could you do this week to place a higher value on him?
 - Isaiah 53.4-6 tells us that the Lord's Servant suffered so that we might be healed and brought back to God. How have you been healed through his suffering? Have you been brought back to God through his Servant, Jesus the Messiah?

7. Closing Prayer