

Jesus IS – The Lamb of God

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. - **Matthew 2:10-11 NIV**

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own.” - **Isaiah 53:6 NLT**

SHEEP ARE KNOWN FOR THREE THINGS

1. Sheep Are _____ . 2. Sheep Are _____ . 3. Sheep Are _____ .

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.”

- **Isaiah 53:6-7 NLT**

“He was despised and rejected—a man of suffering, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was punished so we could be whole. And by his wounds we are healed.”

- **Isaiah 53:3-5 NLT**

CONSIDER THE SUFFERING OF JESUS

“Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me.” ... He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. Father... yet not my will, but yours be done.”

- **Luke 22:41-44 NLT**

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” - **Matthew 27:46 NIV**

“It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - **John 19:30 NIV**

“Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave.... When he sees all that is accomplished by his suffering, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.” - **Isaiah 53:8-9,11 NLT**

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple*must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” - **Luke 9:22-23 NIV**

COMMUNION SERVICE

[Jesus] took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. - **1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- What’s the most unusual Christmas gift you’ve ever received?
- What’s the longest distance you’ve ever traveled for Christmas? Do you like big holiday trips?
- We talked about sheep—reflect on the above 3 points. Many things can cause us to wander from God—stress, lack of rest, desire for approval, etc. What is something that caused you to wander? Or, how have you seen others wander?
- Read Isaiah 53:3-11. What stands out to you from this passage? How does knowing what Jesus did for you influence the way you live?
- Read Luke 9:22-23. What would it look like for you to deny yourself and take up your cross daily?
- What are some practical ways you can take up your cross and follow Christ this week?
- What did God speak to you during this message? Discuss it?