

Study Guide December 20, 2020

Foretold: *The Son of God Revealed* | *Behold the Lamb* | Isaiah 53; John 1:29; Mark 14:66-15:47

This guide is a resource for a small group or a family. You can also use it for personal reflection.

1. Read Isaiah 53:4-6; Galatians 2:20; and Colossians 3:1-17.
 - a. Discuss how these three passages are linked together.
 - b. When Paul says in Galatians 2:20 that he has been crucified with Christ, he obviously doesn't mean that he was literally crucified (or he wouldn't be writing the letter—he'd be dead). So, what does he mean?
 - c. Colossians 3:1-17 begins with "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ..." and goes on to talk about our response to being crucified and raised with Jesus. Work through the passage, noting and discussing the various ways we are called to respond. What does each mean? What would it look like for you to do that in your own life?
 - d. How does the brutal description in Isaiah 53 inform our reading of Colossians 3:5, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly (or sinful) nature..."? What does it mean to put sin to death? Is there sin in your life you need to put to death?
2. **Bonus Question:** John 1:29 refers to Jesus as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." What is the meaning behind calling Jesus a lamb? What is the significance of Jesus being not just *a* lamb but *THE* Lamb?

Praying the Scripture

1. Slowly read through Isaiah 53. Meditate on those words one line at a time. Reflect on the horrendous suffering Christ endured so that you could be saved from sin and death. Talk to God about whatever comes to your mind.
2. Slowly read through Colossians 3:1-11. Meditate on those words one paragraph at a time. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind areas in your life that need to be surrendered to Christ. Talk with God and confess your sin to Him, receiving His mercy and forgiveness (remember that forgiveness comes from the suffering Jesus endured on the cross).
3. Slowly read through Colossians 3:12-17. Meditate on those words one paragraph at a time. Ask God to show you moments in the past week when you have demonstrated these virtues. Ask Him for opportunities this coming week to be the kind of person described in these verses (remember that this is who you truly are now that you belong to Jesus).