

The Root out of Dry Ground – Isaiah 53:1-12

1. How did God speak to you, challenge you, encourage you personally through this passage?

Revealed but Rejected – V.1-3

1. In the person of Jesus, God Himself came to His own people and they did not recognise Him. What does that say about the Israelites' view of God- what they expected Him to be like and to do? Why did they despise and reject Him?
2. In what ways do our views and expectations of God sometimes fail to line up with who He is and how He chooses to work? What should we do when something we read in the Bible, something the Spirit or a faithful sister or brother says, or something God does/doesn't do, challenges what we want or expect of Him?
3. The testimony of Jesus' death and resurrection for forgiveness of sin and life in His name still goes out to all people today through the Bible and God's living Spirit. What about the person and work of Jesus causes you or those in your life to struggle with unbelief or completely close their hearts against God in rejection?

Innocent but Executed – V.4-9

1. What do these verses emphasise about Jesus and about humanity, respectively? (what do you notice about the emphasis of **vv.6?**)
2. Why is it important to be aware of and real about the severity of our sin, rather than deny or minimise it? Can there be a danger in focusing too much on our sin?

“Before we see the cross as something done *for* us, we need to see it as something done *by* us” -John Stott

3. How does a realistic view of your personal part in Jesus' death enhance your view of how incredible God is and what He has done for you?

Crushed but Victorious – V.10-12

1. In these verses, what benefits do you see graciously poured out on sinful people through what Jesus has done for us?
2. These things are the present reality for everyone who trusts in Christ. How might Christians sometimes still live in defeat as though Jesus died and didn't rise? What does it mean to live in Jesus' victory, in the ongoing reality of the resurrection?

What will “doing the word” look like for you this week? How will the truth of God in this passage change/effect how you think, speak, act, live in your day-to-day?