

# Lesson 9

## The Suffering Savior

**Bible Lesson:** Isaiah 53:3-7, Mark 15:6-32

**Memory Verse:** All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. *Isaiah 53:6*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. *1 Peter 1:18-19*

**Catechism Memory Work:** And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .  
*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; . . .

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### Prepare to Teach:

- ✠ The student will understand that it was necessary for Jesus to suffer and die to save us from our sin.
- ✠ The student will appreciate how much it cost Jesus to redeem us.
- ✠ The student will give thanks for Jesus his Savior and will confess his sins and trust Jesus as his own personal Savior.

#### Prepare Materials:

*Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:*

- ◆ Student books and Bibles, pencils; teaching pictures depicting Christ's suffering before

Pilate, on the way to the cross, and on the cross; large steel knitting needle.

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 9, have the students add onto last week's message the following: "not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death;"

#### Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God may make real and clear to you the wonder of Christ's suffering and death for you, so that you might share your love and faith with your students.
2. Pray that your students may be prepared throughout this week for what God wants to teach them. Pray that they may be convinced of their need of a Savior, and that Jesus might be revealed to them as the Savior they need.

### BIBLE BACKGROUND

#### A. Bible Study

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Often when we look around it seems like the Christian Church will crumble under the attacks from her enemies. It looks like the bride of Christ cannot stand against such an onslaught. So Jesus' words are spoken to help His followers understand the animosity that the world has to the truth and righteousness. We are hated because we follow Christ who was hated. We are also assured that the gates of Hell will not prevail against Christ's church (Matthew 16:18).

We are in a world full of suffering. Much of our suffering comes from our sin but at various times we are told believers will suffer for our faith in Christ. To suffer for Christ is a great honor. We are told that if we suffer with Christ we also will be glorified with Him (Romans 8:17). We suffer in this world for various reasons. When Christ suffered, He suffered for us. His sufferings, unlike ours, were redemptive. Our sins were laid on Him and by His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). Some atheists have declared that the Father sending the Son to suffer and die is some kind of child abuse. This is foolishness. Our Savior went without complaint or attempts to derail the process (Isaiah 53:7). He humbled Himself to the suffering of the Cross for the joy set before Him (Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 12:2). He knew that through His suffering He was bringing many "sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10).

The parable of the wicked tenants vividly shows the reaction of the people to God's servants, the prophets and then even to the Son of God. Indeed, Jesus was despised and rejected. The world says that a king shouldn't suffer but should rather be given every comfort; a king shouldn't serve but should be served. But our gracious and merciful God sent His Son for the very purpose of suffering and dying.

Our Gospel text from Mark for this lesson describes in graphic language what was done to Jesus. It was gruesome. But his suffering was not just physical. We also include the burden and suffering of carrying our sins. Jesus, who had never been separated from the Father declared, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46).

We often bring "tribulation" or "trouble" on ourselves through our careless or loveless actions. But Jesus did not suffer because of His own sin even the thief on the cross recognized this. He said to the unrepentant criminal, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man had done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:40-41). What a friend we have in Jesus, the innocent one, the suffering Savior who shed His blood for us.

## B. Creed Study

Jesus not only died for us but He also suffered for us, so we speak of the "suffering savior." Merely suffering for sin, of course, would not redeem us, but it is a suffering that leads to death and is inseparable from His death. As the suffering Savior, Jesus continues His priestly work on our behalf.

The Old Testament priest was the mediator between God and man; he alone could officiate at the altar, offer sacrifices for sin, and intercede for the people. The high priest was a type and a prophecy of Christ the true high priest and mediator between God and man.

### The Law of Substitution

The Old Testament sin offerings brought to the Lord by the priests on behalf of the people were based on the law of substitution. The animal took the place of the sinner whose sins were transferred to the animal by the laying of hands upon its head (as was done with the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement, Lesson 4).

The law of substitution is a universal law of life. Christ spoke of this when He said, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Christ became that grain of wheat and by dying became the life of the sinner, to do what the sinner could not do for himself. Christ also fulfills the law of God for us, the law that we have broken; thereby He becomes our righteousness. Christ also bears our sins on Himself (I Peter 2:24). As the sin bearer, Christ in His death has the same effect for us as if each one had died for his own sin. The difference, of course, is that as God, Jesus' death and blood have power to atone for our sin.

### The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53:3-7

The substitutionary death of Christ (vicarious atonement) is seen in the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. This passage, more clearly than any other, describes what Jesus will do. Here we see why Jesus was despised and rejected by men.

The writer is surprised that there are so few believers to hear (53:1), then goes on to describe the servant's life (53:2ff). The servant lived the entire course of his earthly life in the presence of God as he "grew up before Him," and was kept in the power of God. To men, however, the servant appeared as a tender twig growing on a tree, which men cut off because it appears to take life from the tree. He is also described as a root out of parched ground (note also Isaiah 11:1).

The dry (parched) ground refers to the lowly conditions and background in which the servant was to appear. He has neither form or glory. Things that we think are necessary for leadership were not found in Him. Our judgment is according to outward appearances and is not accurate. This verse does not describe the physical appearance of Jesus (the Bible never does). Rather, it shows that His appearance was such that man would completely misjudge Him.

He is a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief (53:3). It is not a picture of one whose body is weakened by physical sickness. The word "grief" or "sickness" here stands for sin. Men simply did not give attention to Him (John 1:11). It was a form of unbelief.

In his commentary on Isaiah, J. Edward Young writes, "The unbelief that Isaiah here depicts is the same unbelief found all about us today. Men say pleasant and complimentary things about the Lord of Glory. They will praise His ethics, His teaching, declare that He was a good man and a great prophet, the only one who has answers to the social problems that today confront the world. They will not, however, acknowledge that they are sinners, deserving of everlasting punishment, and that the death of Christ was a vicarious sacrifice, designed to satisfy the justice of God and to reconcile an offended God to the sinner. Men will not receive what God says concerning His Son. Today also, the Servant is despised and rejected of men, and men do not esteem Him."

Verses 4-5 clearly picture how Jesus, the suffering servant, became our substitute. Though characterized by griefs and sorrows, they are not his own. He bears what is ours. He not only became a fellow sufferer with us, but bore the sin that is the cause of the suffering. The thought is that because we sinned, He suffered; He is pierced, crushed, chastened, scourged. If this is to have any meaning for us, the servant must be one who was himself utterly free of sin and iniquity, or else his vicarious suffering could be of no help to us. Unlike the Old Testament high priest, Jesus did not have any sin of His own to atone for.

Verse 6 shows us a new picture of why the servant had to suffer. Like a flock of sheep that has lost its shepherd, all of us have gone astray. This verse has a beautiful balance of law and gospel. The first half gives the reason for the servant's suffering (our willful straying and sinful ways), and the second part says the Lord Himself made the servant suffer by placing on Him the iniquity that belonged to us all. The law tells us what we have done; the gospel tells us the good news of what God has done for us in Christ.

Mark 15:6-20

The suffering of Christ is concisely summarized in the creed as He "suffered under Pontius Pilate." It was part of "the fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4) that the Romans ruled over Palestine when Jesus was crucified. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea. Jesus was crucified under Roman law, not under the Mosaic or Jewish law. The Mosaic law provided that the body of one who had been put to death be hung on a tree to emphasize the shameful character of the crime committed (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). The Romans crucified people alive.

Unspeakable as the physical sufferings were, His spiritual sufferings were even greater. He knew His road to Calvary led through Gethsemane, and He was prepared to meet what was in store for Him there. But even though Jesus was prepared, He suffered physical, emotional and spiritual anguish in the garden that went far beyond anything we would be able to endure. He sweat blood (Luke 2:44) and prayed for deliverance asking, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

It was under Pilate that Jesus was "despised," "oppressed" and "afflicted" (Isaiah 53:3, 7). The soldiers mocked Him as king (Mark 15:17,18), beat Him and spit on Him (15:19). Only after such humiliation did they lead Him out to be crucified.

Christ demonstrates even in the manner in which He died that He took upon Himself the curse of the most shameful and degrading sin. No sinner, not even the greatest (which is any of us) should ever be able to face Christ and say, "You did not die for my sins."

He suffered for us, and He died, "the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18).

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome

Set the mood for this important lesson by showing your care for each student and your thankfulness to your Lord and Savior.

### Open with Prayer

Elicit prayer topics from the students, by reminding them of their Redeemer who paid the price to save lost and condemned creatures, including each of

you. Encourage prayer participation. Close with a prayer of petition that God will help you and your students to see and know Jesus' suffering and death.

## Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

**From the Bible:** 1 Corinthians 15:57

And

**From the Catechism:** And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .  
*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; . . .

## Review

Why was our lesson entitled, "No Longer Condemned?" (*Jesus redeemed us, bought us and freed us by His death on the cross so our sins could be taken away. We could repent of our sins, trust in Jesus, and be saved. We then would be "no longer condemned."*)

## Introduce Wall Words

oppressed—

afflicted—

despised—

forsaken—

demanding—

scourged—

jeered—

mocked—

agony—

## Introduce the Lesson

**SAY** The story is told of a young boy who lived with his grandmother because he didn't have any parents to take care of him. She was a good woman who loved the Lord Jesus and cared for her grandson. She made her living by knitting sweaters

and other things for people. (Show the knitting needles.) The grandmother did her best for her grandson and tried to lead him to live a good life. But the boy got mixed up with some friends who got him started stealing things. You see, he was mixed up with a couple of our great enemies, as we learned in the last lesson. He was tempted by bad company and by sin.

After trying many things to get her grandson to stop his stealing, the grandmother decided she'd have to try something drastic. She told her grandson, "If you don't stop stealing, I will have to heat my needles in the fire and stab your stealing hand with a hot needle." The boy looked scared, but he still couldn't stop his stealing when he was tempted by the other boys and his own thoughts about what he could do with the money he'd steal.

Finally, the grandmother found out he was still stealing. She took the boy's hand and then put her sharp needle into the fire to get it hot. When the needle was hot, she held it over her grandson's hand, then suddenly thrust the needle into her own hand. She took the punishment that her grandson deserved. When the boy saw how much she loved him, he confessed his sins and accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Today's lesson tells about how Jesus took our punishment. The punishment He took was much greater than having a hot needle stab His hand. In our lesson we'll think about what Jesus did to save us.

## Teach the Lesson

**ASK** But why did Jesus have to die to redeem us? We read about that in our Old Testament lesson. Find it in Isaiah 53:3-7. Be ready to read verses 5 and 6. **CALL ON** a student to read verse 5. Why was Jesus pierced? (*For our transgressions, "transgressions" are sins. We should have been pierced for our own sins, but Jesus was pierced for us, instead of us.*) Jesus was crushed for our iniquities. That means He was hurt and killed for our sins. "Iniquities" means "sins." God is holy and His kingdom is holy. God wanted to prepare a good and holy kingdom for his people. Nothing sinful can have a place in God's kingdom. It couldn't be a holy and happy place for God's people if there were sin there. God's plan was for Jesus to take away the sins of the people by taking the punishment for sins onto Himself. That was the only plan that would work. Only one who was a perfect man could pay for our sins. **CALL ON** a student to read verse 6. Then **SAY** Isaiah says we are like sheep. Sheep are hard to lead because they go off on their own way. We are like that too. But Jesus took all our sins on

Himself. He took them all away. **SAY** When Jesus was being punished for our sins, many people turned away from Him. He died on the cross like a criminal. Some people were ashamed of Him and hated Him. But it wasn't His own sin that put Him there. It was our sin. He was holy and sinless. **SAY** Our lesson describes how Jesus suffered and died for us. It explains how Jesus happened to be crucified, or nailed to a cross. The New Testament lesson tells more about it. Look up Mark 15:6-32. **CALL ON** a student to read verses 11-13. **ASK** Who brought Jesus to Pilate and asked to have Jesus crucified? (*the chief priests, Jesus' enemies, the Jewish priests, were jealous of Jesus and told lies about Him. They wanted Jesus to die.*) **SAY** Pilate, the Roman governor, thought Jesus was a criminal when the chief priests brought Him. But after Pilate asked Jesus questions, what did he find out? (*Jesus hadn't done anything wrong.*) Then why did Pilate have Jesus crucified? (*Pilate was afraid of the crowd. He was afraid the people might turn against him if he didn't do what they wanted.*) That was why Pilate, the governor, had Jesus crucified. But hundreds of years before, Isaiah had said that that would happen. That was Isaiah's prophecy. Because Isaiah was God's prophet, God spoke to him and told him what would happen. Isaiah's prophecies came true. Read more of the lesson and make a list of the things the soldiers did to Jesus. **LIST** on the

things on the chalkboard as the students find them. (*beat Jesus; put cuts and bruises on His body; pressed a crown of big, thick thorns on His head; fastened Him to a cross; drove nails through His hands and feet; mocked and made fun of Him*) **ASK** What did the people say about Jesus? (*He saved others, but He couldn't save Himself.*) They said they'd believe in Jesus if He came down from the cross. **ASK** Did Jesus have the power to come down from the cross? (*Yes, He did. But then He couldn't have saved us. He needed to die on the cross so we could be saved.*) **ASK** Why Jesus didn't come down from the cross? **CALL ON** a student to read this paragraph. (*He stayed there because He loved us and so He could take the punishment for our sins.*) What was the worst punishment Jesus had to take? (*God turning away from Jesus.*) Jesus hung alone on the cross. Even God didn't comfort Him. Jesus paid the price God demanded for sin. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, once, for all time, for all people. **ASK** How much are you worth to Jesus? (*We are worth so much that Jesus was willing to die for us.*) **READ** and discuss the last paragraph. **ASK** When we see how much Jesus loved us and what He suffered for us, how should we show Him our love? (*We should confess our sins and trust Him as Savior, praise Him and thank Him, pray and sing praises, live for Him, ask Him to help us live holy lives, and tell others about Him.*)

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Memory Work

**BIBLE VERSE**— Isaiah 53:6

*All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.*

**CATECHISM**—READ

*The Second Article of Redemption  
And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .  
What does this mean?*

*I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; . . .*

**ASK** What was the price Jesus paid to redeem us? (*It was not money—silver or gold. It was His holy and precious blood.*) He shed His blood on the

cross. He was holy and so His blood was holy and precious. It was worth a lot. His sufferings and death were innocent. He was innocent of any crime or sin. Pilate could not find any crime in Him. Jesus had no sin, so His sufferings and death were innocent. Complete the memorization.

### Activity Pages

#### Activity 1— He Suffered For Me ANSWERS

1. They jeered and mocked Jesus
2. Let student answer
3. Because of His great love for us; to take the punishment for our sins; to bring forgiveness for all our sins.
4. He was wrongly accused, he was arrested and sentenced to death, he was beat and scourged until covered with cuts and bruises and his flesh was torn, people mocked him, his disciples forsake Him, and His father God turned away from Him.
5. His Father turning away from Him

6. a. “despised and forsaken”, b. “pierced through for our transgressions”, c. “crushed for our iniquities”, d. “He was oppressed and He was afflicted”

**Activity 2— Jesus Saves!****ANSWERS**

Because I am **SINFUL**, I need **JESUS** as my **SAVIOR**.

**CLOSING THE LESSON****Closing Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our suffering Savior. Thank You for dying on the cross so we may be forgiven and saved and live with You in heaven forever. Forgive us for not remembering how much it cost You to redeem us. Give us Your grace so that we may turn from our sins, trust in You, and love You and live for You every day. Amen.*

**Assignment**

1. Challenge your students to tell someone this week about Jesus' suffering and death to redeem us.
2. Remind your students to complete the lesson and practice saying the memory verse and catechism.
3. Remind your students to read in their Bibles and pray each day.