

9-Week Bible Study: From Longing to Living Hope

Week 1: A Longing for a Saviour

Theme: Why We Need Easter

Key Scripture: Isaiah 53:1–6; Romans 3:23

Focus: Humanity's brokenness and God's promise of redemption

Teaching: Sin separates us from God, but from the beginning, God promised a Saviour. Isaiah paints a picture of a suffering servant long before Jesus appears.

Isaiah 53:1–6 and Romans 3:23 together paint a sobering but hopeful picture of the human condition and God's response to it.

Isaiah 53 reveals humanity's tendency to reject God's way of salvation. The servant is misunderstood, despised, and overlooked, yet He willingly bears pain that does not belong to Him. The passage makes clear that our brokenness is not merely external but deeply personal, "we all, like sheep, have gone astray." Sin is shown as both wandering from God and needing rescue, we cannot provide ourselves. Yet even in our rebellion, God is already at work, placing our guilt upon the servant in an act of mercy and love.

Romans 3:23 states the same truth plainly: "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." There are no exceptions, no hierarchy of righteousness. This verse strips away comparison and self-justification and places every person on equal ground before God—needy and dependent on grace.

Together, these passages move us from honesty to hope. They confront us with the reality of sin while pointing us toward God's solution. Easter becomes meaningful because it answers this deep human need: where we fall short, God steps in; where we wander, God provides a shepherd; where we deserve judgment, God offers redemption.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it hard to admit our need for a Saviour?
- What stands out to you in Isaiah's description of the servant?
- How do we see brokenness in the world today?

Scripture Engagement Questions:

1. How do these passages describe the condition of humanity without God?
2. Why do you think people often resist acknowledging their own brokenness?
3. What does Isaiah 53 reveal about God's plan long before Jesus' birth?

4. In what ways do you see the effects of sin in relationships, society, or yourself?
5. How does understanding sin deepen your appreciation for Easter?
6. What does it mean personally to say, "All have sinned"?
7. How does recognising our need prepare us to receive grace?

Reflection/Prayer: Take time to reflect on areas where they need God's healing and forgiveness.