

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 50. Sheep gone astray



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Isaiah 53:4-9

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

This passage was written by the prophet Isaiah and describes Jesus as the suffering servant. It was written 600 years before He was born, and is a powerful description of what He suffered and why. It tells us that, because of our sins, Jesus took the punishment we deserved. He experienced pain and suffering in our place on the cross. This means we have freedom from the eternal consequences of our mistakes. Of course, we still suffer earthly consequences but we know God has secured our eternal destiny in heaven.

Who is this message for? The passage tells us that we all have gone astray – chosen our way instead of God's. Each one of us has made mistakes and done things we should not have done. Jesus has taken our punishment so we can all have God's forgiveness and peace.

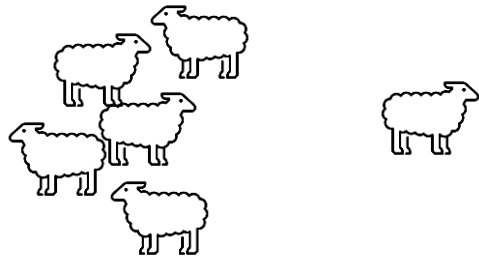
As Jesus was led away like a lamb to the slaughter, He did not open his mouth to defend Himself. This does not mean that Jesus was a helpless victim of circumstances or weak like a lamb. Jesus could have chosen not to die but He willingly gave Himself as a sacrifice to take the punishment we deserve. He gave up His life for us.

### Reflections:

- Think about what Jesus suffered on the cross and what this says about how much He loves you.
- What do you want to say to Jesus in response to what He has done for you?
- How does it feel to know that you are forgiven and set free from the eternal consequences of your past actions?



Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

