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Following the Leader

Key References: Isaiah 53:3-5; *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 58, pp. 690, 691; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 157-160; Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 17, 10















powertext

"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" (Isaiah 53:5).

powerpoint

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.

Have you ever played Simon says or follow the leader? How easy is it to follow all the time? When Jesus came to this earth, He served others and invited His followers to play follow the leader by following His example.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the consequences of their actions were clear. They had broken the law, so they must die. Jesus was faced with a choice. Either He could just forget about them, abandon them to Satan, or He could conduct the most daring rescue mission the universe would ever see.

Everyone in the universe held their breath to see what Jesus would decide. On the one hand was heaven, where everyone lived in peace and harmony. Everyone loved Jesus and adored Him. There beauty, peace, and happiness surrounded Him. He could enjoy time with the

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 74.



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Sunday

READ Read 2 Peter 2:9 and this week's story, "Following the Leader."

WRITE Write out the power text, Isaiah 53:5, and pin it up so you can see it.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you find ways to serve this week.

Monday

READ Read Isaiah 53:3.

MAKE Create a collage of the "despised and rejected" of the world. Place Jesus in the center of the picture.

THINK Do you know anyone who is rejected or friendless?

PRAY Begin to pray for someone who is on the edge of society. Ask God how He wants you to serve that person.

Tuesday

READ Read Isaiah 53:4.

PLAN Plan to do a special service for someone today, and do it.

CREATE Draw or make a cross.

LIST List any weaknesses or sorrows you have and pin them to the cross to remind you that Jesus carries them for you.

PRAY Thank God for carrying all your weaknesses and sorrows.

angels and people from other worlds that He had created. On the other hand, He could go down and live on the earth and overcome Satan once and for all. He could reclaim the human race and offer everyone the chance to be restored to God's original plan for them.

But there was a high price to pay. Jesus would have to leave His heavenly home, with all its comfort and joy, and go and live on earth as a human. The earth was no longer the beautiful place He created. It had been damaged by sin. But Jesus knew that the people were even more damaged than the world. They suffered because of sin.

For Jesus the choice was simple. He would go to earth. It would be risky. It would be painful, and there was a chance that all of His pain would be for nothing. There would be people who would not accept Him, who would reject Him in spite of everything He would do for them. But He decided to go ahead with it. Jesus *gladly* chose to suffer for us.

During His life on earth Jesus experienced pain and rejection. At one time the people of His hometown tried to get rid of Him. They drove Him out of the town and tried to push Him over a cliff. His own family had a tough time accepting His work. They questioned if He really was the Son of God. His friends left Him when things got rough and He needed them the most. He supported them in all their problems, but when He asked them to pray with Him, they fell asleep.

It was one of Jesus' friends who tipped off the authorities so they could capture Him secretly. He traded his Friend for a bag of money. And then our innocent Jesus was treated like the worst kind of criminal. He was scourged, beaten with a whip that had tiny pieces of metal embedded in it to cut the victim's back with every lash. Many times the



Wednesday

READ Read Isaiah 53:6, 7.

REWRITE In your own words, rewrite these verses.

SURVEY Talk with your family and friends. Ask them how they feel about Jesus taking responsibility for their sins.

PRAY Thank God for taking responsibility for your sins.

Thursday

READ Read the following examples from the life of Jesus in which you can see Isaiah 53:3-5 being fulfilled: John 6:60-71; John 10:22-39; Matthew 26:36-45; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:54-62; John 19:28-37.

COUNT How many people have served you today? In what ways? How have you served others today?

WRITE Write a poem or song to Jesus about following His example and serving others.

Friday

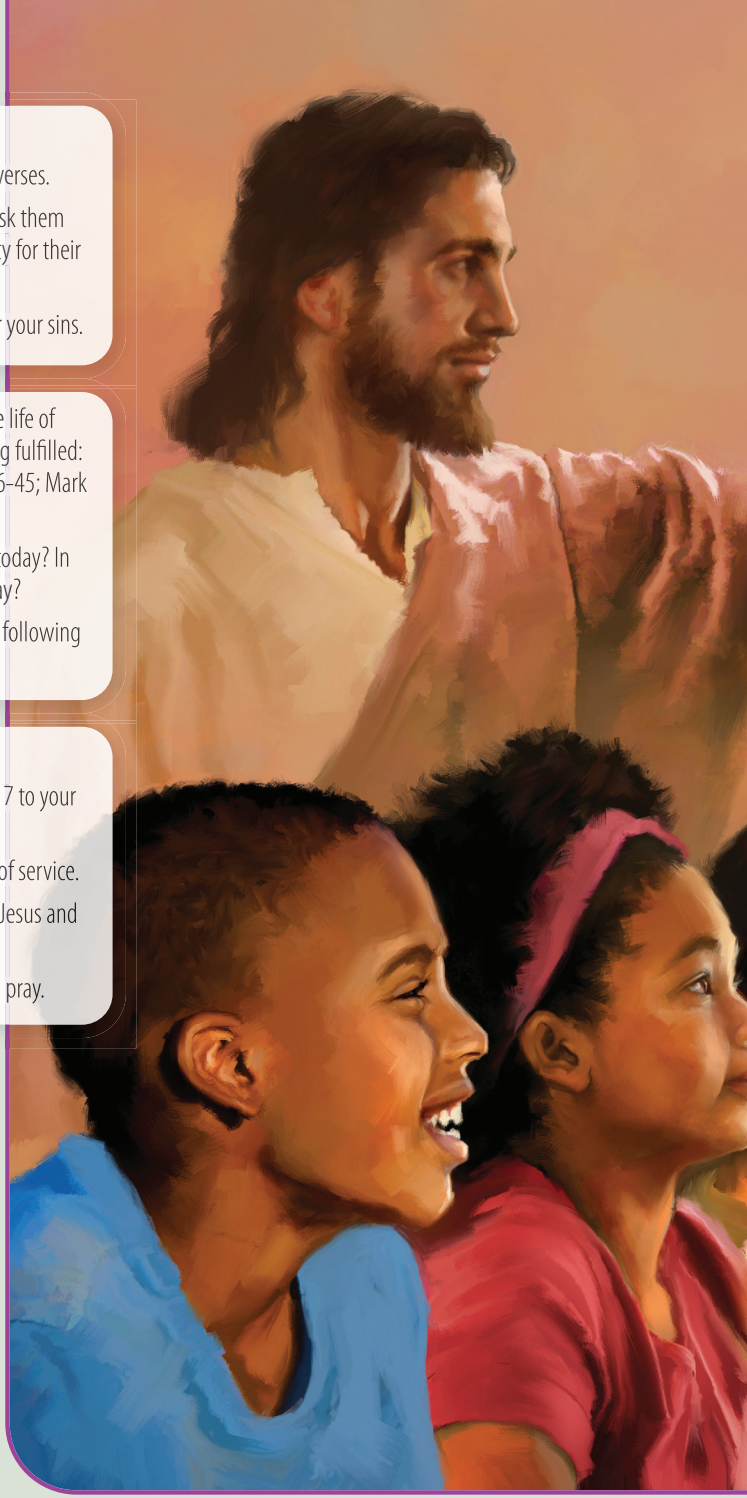
READ Read John 19:28-37.

SHARE Read your paraphrase of Isaiah 53:6, 7 to your family at worship.

SING Find and sing a song about Jesus' life of service.

COMMIT Write out a commitment to follow Jesus and serve others.

PRAY Read your commitment to God as you pray.

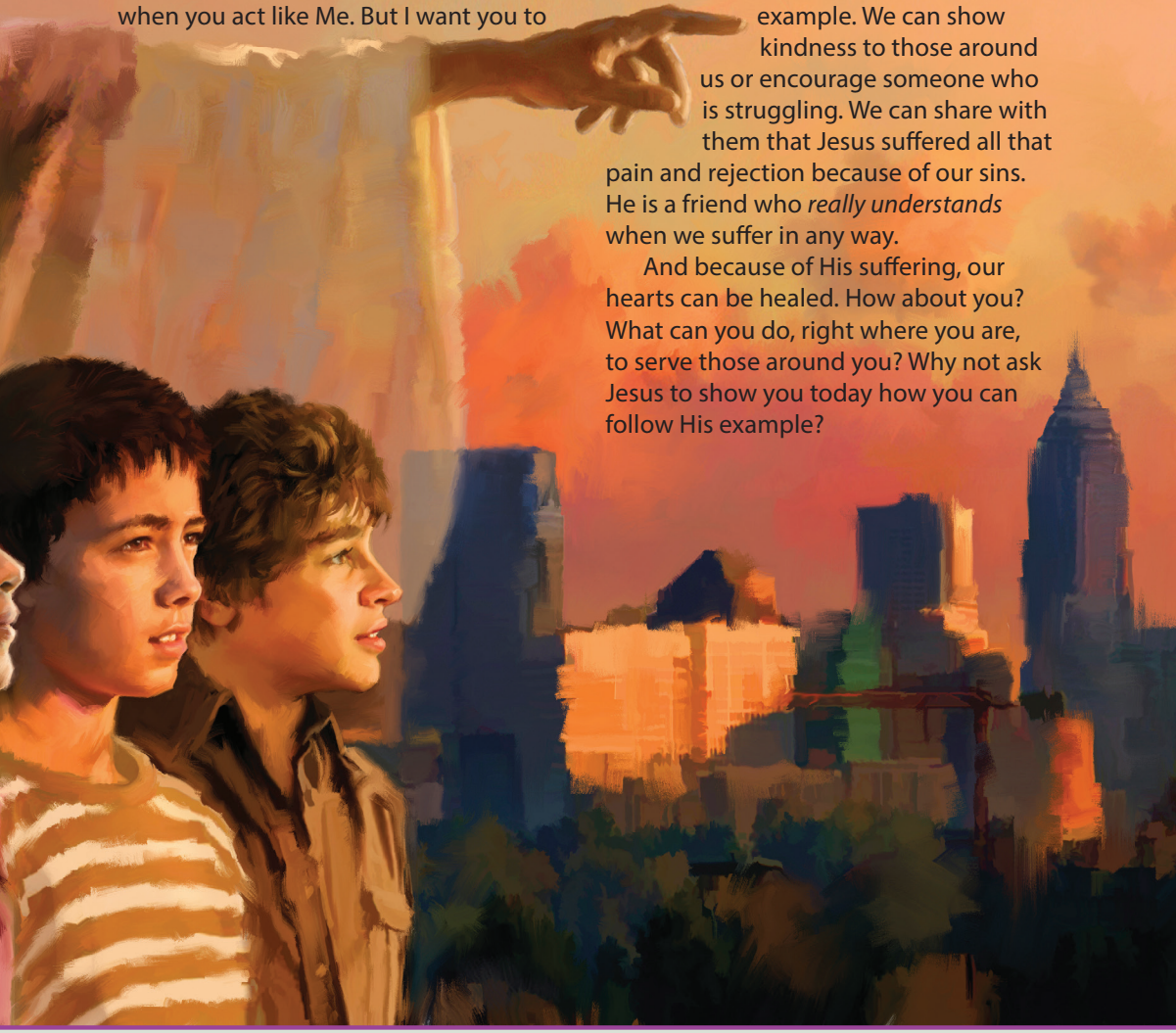


person being scourged died right then. The authorities had determined that 40 scourges was enough to kill a person, so victims were often given 39. Jesus endured that twice, along with a crown of thorns and a heavy cross roughly placed on His bleeding back.

Once Jesus told the disciples, "Look, there are many people here who don't like Me. So be prepared! If they don't like Me, they're not going to like you either when you act like Me. But I want you to stand firm! I have overcome the world" (see John 15:18; John 16:33). Then Jesus kept on serving by loving, healing, and forgiving even those people who treated Him so badly. His actions weren't guided by whether someone liked Him. His kindness wasn't reserved just for people who were kind to Him. He *gladly* suffered for us because He loves us. He died for the sins of everyone.

Today Jesus asks us to follow His example. We can show kindness to those around us or encourage someone who is struggling. We can share with them that Jesus suffered all that pain and rejection because of our sins. He is a friend who *really understands* when we suffer in any way.

And because of His suffering, our hearts can be healed. How about you? What can you do, right where you are, to serve those around you? Why not ask Jesus to show you today how you can follow His example?



PUZZLE
9

LET'S SERVE!

Instructions: Pick a letter from each column to spell out a Bible verse.

ET	EVVBNTFYPJ	WITNTVC
RO	FCGFYTACNG	DSDHOUR
DY	UNERDSHIVB	GYHJHKT

GRJWYTING	NB	LJHUIGH.
RDLBBLHNI	KR	HRGBBST.
NPUMVCFSZ	OD	AMLKKNG.