

Second Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Title 13: **Jesus as the Suffering Messiah**

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

## **Jesus Tells about His Mission**

(Based on Matthew 16:21-13)

Jesus continues to do about doing good. His disciples go with him. Jesus heals the sick. He makes the blind see. He feeds hungry people. He blesses children everywhere.

One day, Jesus calls his disciples. He says, "I need to go to Jerusalem. I will do what my Father wants me to do. I will face the people who want to kill me. I will die but on the third day, I will raise from the dead."

The disciples do not want Jesus to go there. They feel unhappy. He is their Master.



Peter says, "Lord, please do not go there. This should not happen to you!"

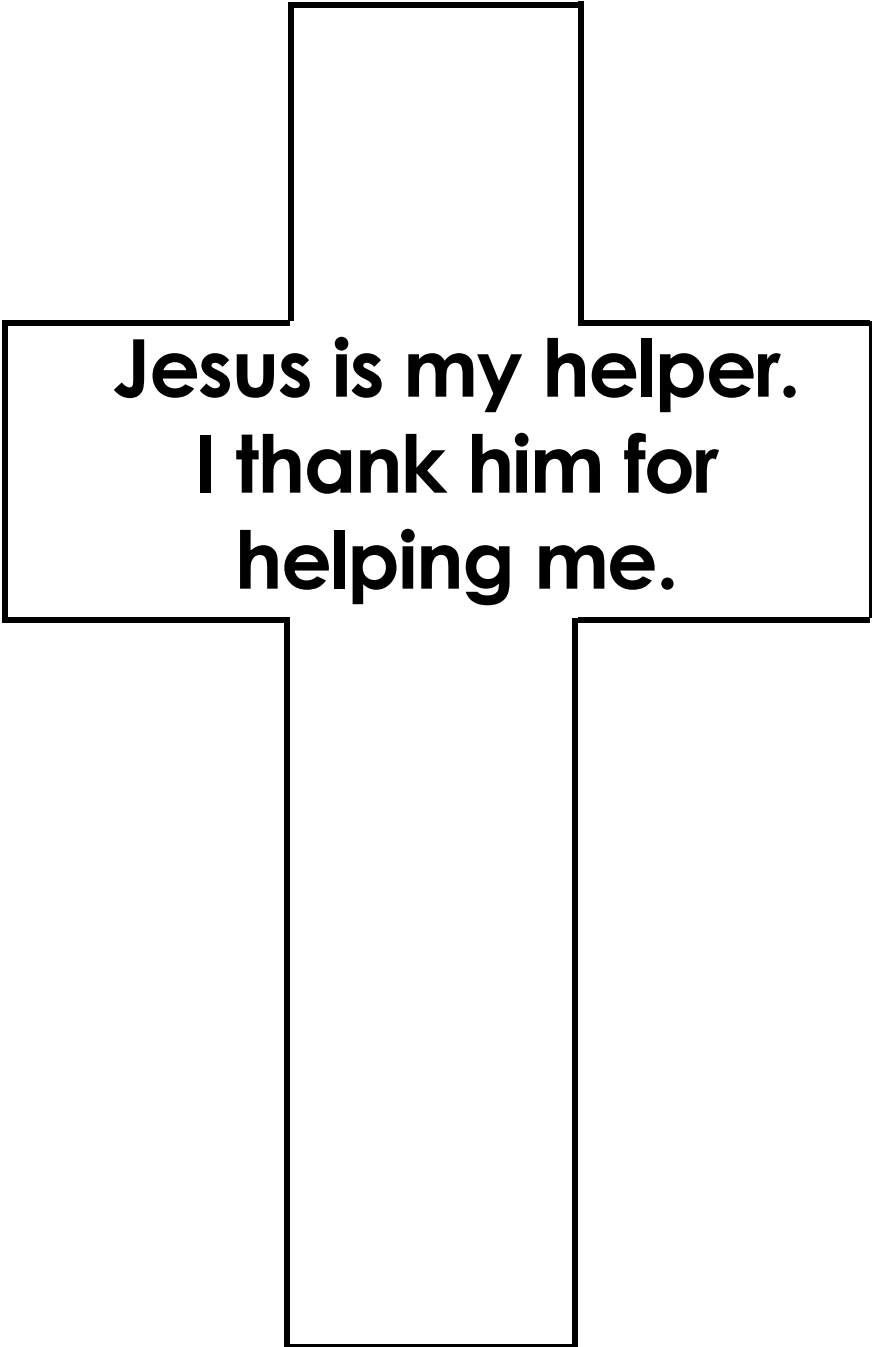
Jesus answers, "Peter, do not keep me from obeying the will of my Father. I have to fulfill my mission to help all of you. Your mind is filled with things of men and not with things of God."

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Listen to or read the sentence inside the cross. Then decorate it.



**Jesus is my helper.  
I thank him for  
helping me.**

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**Middle Elementary/Older Elementary Levels**

Read the biblical verses in Matthew 16:21-23. Then read the paraphrased version. Tell whether you agree or not. Write your explanation.

### **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Jesus tells his disciples that he will go to Jerusalem to do his mission. He will suffer from the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes. They will kill him by hanging on the cross. But on the third day, he will be aised from the dead.

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<sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'

*Peter tells him not to go. He does not want him to suffer and die.*

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<sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

*Jesus gets angry with Peter. He said that Peter prevents him in fulfilling his mission of God's plan of salvation. Peter thinks only of the things of men and not of the things of God. Jesus knew that the only way to fulfill his mission is by the way of the cross.*

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**Middle Elementary/Older Elementary Levels**

Answer these questions.

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples?

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2. Where is Jesus going?

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3. What does Jesus need to undergo?

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4. Why do you think Jesus did it?

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5. Why is it important for Jesus to tell his disciples?

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6. What is a suffering Messiah as defined by Isaiah?

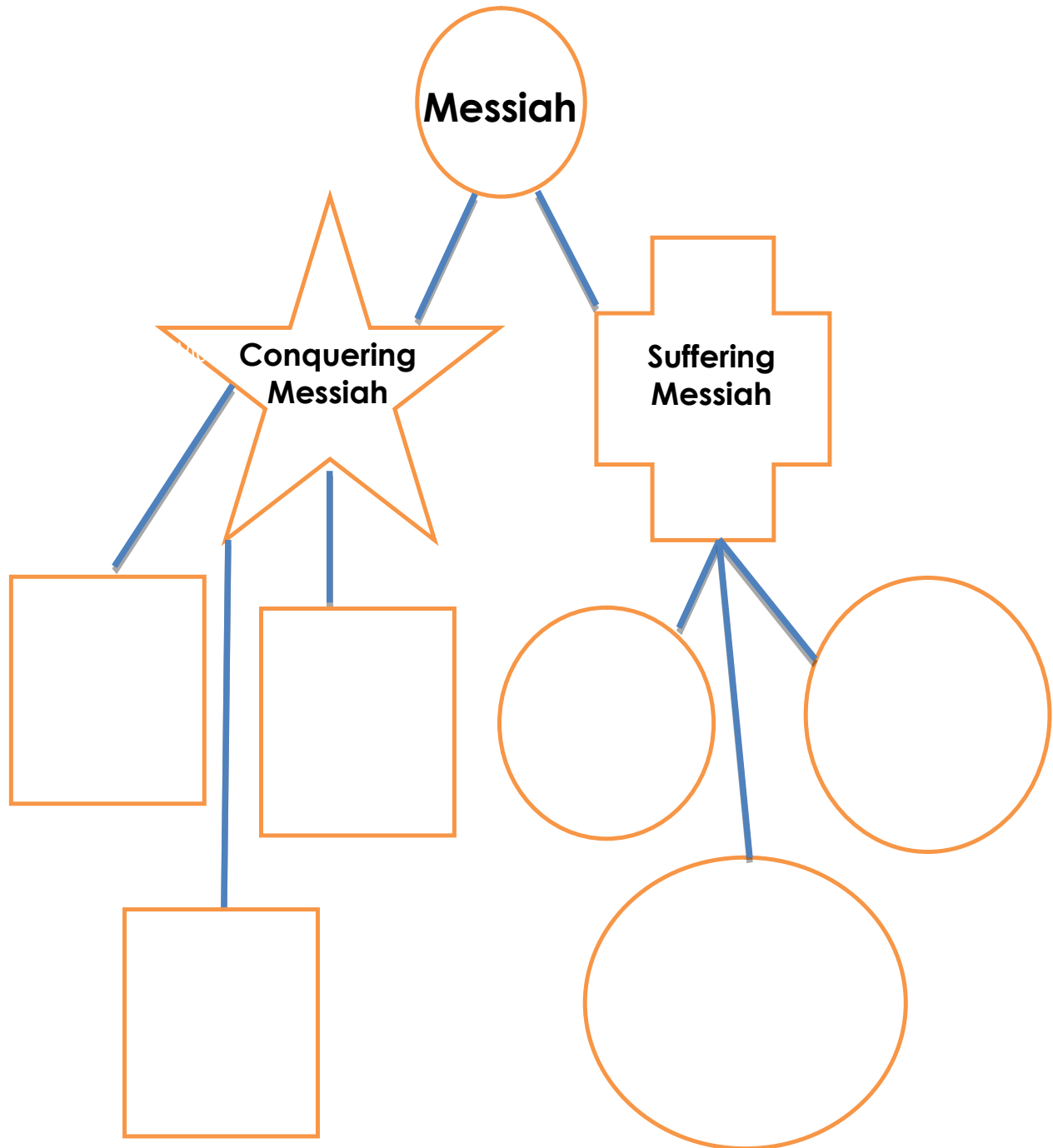
Read Isaiah 53:3-7. Underline the verses that describe the suffering Messiah.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering\* and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces\* he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

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Youth Level

Complete the following concept map. Look for the verses that explain each part of the map in relation with the verses in Isaiah 53:1-12 and Matthew 16:21-23.



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Youth Level

Answer these questions.

1. How will you describe the Suffering Messiah referred to in Matthew 16:21-23 and Isaiah 53:1-12. Read the verses aloud.

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2. Thinking about the kind of suffering the Messiah will go through as written in Matthew 16:21-23 and Isaiah 53:1-12, what emotions do you feel and what makes you feel this way?

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3. Why do you think the Messiah had to go through this kind of suffering? Find your group and brainstorm the question. Be ready to discuss your thoughts in the big group.

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4. Why do you think Jesus told his disciples about his incoming suffering? Why do you think Jesus considered the way of the cross as the only way to fulfill his calling?

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5. Is there still a need for the Messiah to suffer today?

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6. Who are called to transform creation?

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Complete these sentences.

1. "I will follow Jesus even it takes \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "I will be loyal and faithful to God by \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "I commit to raising \_\_\_\_\_ amount to contribute to the whole class' goal in order to help \_\_\_\_\_ (organization) in transforming God's creation."
4. " I will demonstrate my willingness to suffer for the sake of God's creation by giving up \_\_\_\_\_ in order to save enough money for our class' financial support to the \_\_\_\_\_ \*organization)." (Each will offer their cross-art after saying these sentences.)

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**Adult Level**

Read the biblical texts and the explanation under each. Share your thoughts,

1. (Excerpt from the Exegesis) *Isaiah 53:1-12*.

Isaiah 53 is one of the four "Servant Songs" in which the prophet describes how God will redeem Israel through the suffering servant. It portrays the arrival of a kind of messiah who will challenge the existing powers that dominate, oppress and humiliate the Israelite people. Here, the suffering messiah though not identified by the writer is suffering and afflicted. But he will become God's instrument to exalt and restore Israel's glory. However, he will be the kind of messiah that confronts rejection and endure torment for a greater cause in a manner contrary to the usual ways of the world which is to conquer and impose change through military and political power and authority. The messiah however will carry on with his mission through silence and nonviolence, and even in his acceptance of suffering and death. This is the new image of messiah that will now define the mission and ministry of Jesus as the messiah sent by God.

2. (Excerpt from the Companion Guide) Matthew 16:21-23.

Jesus tells his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priest and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day will be raised. Peter rebuked Jesus for he did not know understand why Jesus must do this. But Jesus corrected Peter for his mind setting was not on divine things but on human things.

In his time, the traditional image of God's anointed, that is, messiah is that of a conquering hero like King David. It was this kind of messiah that the disciples expected Jesus to be. But Jesus was not a populist political leader whose aim was to please the crowd in order to keep their loyalty.

Jesus didn't invent the idea of a suffering messiah. He was acquainted with what may be considered a marginal concept of a suffering servant of Yahweh in the hind portion of the Book of Isaiah which scholars today refer to as Deutero- or II Isaiah. Here, it's not by fiat of conquest but by virtue of the affliction suffered by the Lord's servant that Israel may obtain redemption. Jesus rejected the dominant or mainstream view of a conquering messiah as he saw himself fulfilling the role of a sacrificial lamb being dramatically played out by an obscure and mysterious messiah.

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Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Do the following:

2. Enumerate the different things that the Messiah will suffer as foretold by Isaiah.

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3. Compare what Jesus describes about his death and resurrection in Matthew 16:21-23 with the prophecy of Isaiah. Read the verses in the OT text and underline the verses in the NT text to describe the suffering Messiah.

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4. Answer these questions.

- a. How will you compare the suffering Messiah referred to in Matthew 16:21-23 and suffering Messiah foretold by Isaiah?

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- b. Why do you think Jesus told his disciples about his incoming suffering?

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- c. When was the time the disciples finally understood about Jesus' Messiahship?

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- d. When Peter prevented Jesus from fulfilling his mission of God's plan of salvation, was Jesus right in saying that Peter thinks only of the things of men and not of the things of God? Explain your answer.

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- e. Why do you think Jesus considered the way of the cross as the only way to fulfill his mission?

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