

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of March 23, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus our Substitute

**This Week's Text:** Isaiah 53

*The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives, which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties, which belong to man alone.*

**John Stott**

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20***

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Isaiah 53:6***

**Related Texts:** Hebrews 9:11-26; Leviticus 16, 17:11; Mark 15:33-39

**Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What does the word Atonement mean? What does it presuppose?
- Why did God give us a way to atone for sin? Why all the blood shed? Reference Leviticus 17:11.
- Read the creation account in Genesis and discuss what it tells us about God?
  - What does the Imago Dei imply? Reference Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:15-17.
- What was the result of our first parent's decision to disobey God? Reference Genesis 3:14-21.

- What did they do as the result? What did God do?
  - How did they try to hide their shame?
  - In what ways do we try to deal with our sin?
  - What do we learn about God through His actions after Adam and Eve sinned?
- What does our culture tell us that we need to do or to have in order to be somebody and to justify one's sense of value, worth and purpose?
- What are some ways we seek to make ourselves acceptable to God? What do our attempts to provide atonement for ourselves say about our view of God?
- What is the Day of Atonement? What is the Holy of Holies?
  - Describe some of the different procedures involved.
  - What was the purpose?
  - What was God trying to show and teach Israel particularly about their approach to God?
- Discuss the importance and purpose of both goats used on that day.
- What light does the scapegoat shed on the work of Christ as sin-bearer?
- The writer to the Hebrews uses the ceremonies of the Day of Atonement to teach important lessons about the work of Christ. Make a list of the contrasts and the similarities he finds. Reference Hebrews 9.
- Prayerfully read together Isaiah 53 and discuss the substitution language of Christ's atonement.
- What is the significance of the veil being torn from top to bottom when Jesus was crucified? Reference Mark 15:37-39.
- In what ways can we communicate the atonement and its necessity in our culture while living on mission?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus shed His blood as atonement for ALL our sin.
- Jesus suffers in our place and for our sin. **Galatians 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.***

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for opportunities to boldly speak of the work of Christ to others.

### **Next Week's Text:** Jesus our Passover & Redeemer