 **Message Outline**

*Christmas Conversations: OT Edition*

**Isaiah 53**

**Intro:** Advent…shifting pews, pondering OT texts with popsicle sticks…

* Week 1: the seed of the woman who will crush the serpent (Gen.3:15)…
* Week 2: Virgin Birth (Is.7), Nicknames (Is.9), Origins (Is.11)…
* This week: Easter echoes in Christmas…myrrh, swaddles, and piercing predictions…

*1) Say your name, how long you’ve attended FCB, and what do you think is so cute about kids? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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* Jesus not born with halos or radiating light (cf. 53:2)…

**Read:** Isaiah 53

**v.1-2—**“shoot” and “root” imagery again…

**v.2b—**Not the best baby pic…

**v.3—**The verbs Jesus experienced…He went thru what you go thru!!!

**v.4-6—**Jesus’ hurt was for our help…

*2) Can you think of real life scenarios where people are put in harm’s way to help others? In theological terms, how do you explain to an unbeliever the substitutionary sacrifice Jesus endured on the cross? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**v.7-9—**The quietness of Jesus at His arrest (cf.Mt.27:12-14).

**v.9—**Jesus died between two criminals, laid in rich man’s grave (Joseph of Arimathea)…

**v.10-12—**The great reversal…

*3) What do you think God’s trying to tell us thru Isaiah 53?* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**3rd Sunday of Advent:**

**Candle of Joy**

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
    the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, **2**it will burst into bloom;  
    it will rejoice greatly and shout for JOY.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
    the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the Lord,  
    the splendor of our God….

**6**Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
    and the mute tongue shout for **JOY**.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
    and streams in the desert.  
**7**The burning sand will become a pool,  
    the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
    grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

**8**And a highway will be there;  
    it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
    it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
    wicked fools will not go about on it.  
**9**No lion will be there,  
    nor any ravenous beast;  
    they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,  
**10**    and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
    **everlasting JOY** will crown their heads.  
Gladness and **joy** will overtake them,  
    and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

-Isaiah 35:1-2, 6-10 NIV

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*Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindliness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been ‘in planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels. –St. John Chrysostom*

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