

Application Discussion Guide: Cruciform Power

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

April 27, 2003: "Cruciform Power" by Rich Vincent - Pastor Singles Ministries CPC. Pastor Rich led us today in a study of Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 as he used this text to preach the word of God.

Isaiah is describing in this passage that "the arm of the Lord" is the true power that makes things happen. It is not anything we as mere mortals possess; however, we can be vessels for this power to be used for God's purposes if we yield ourselves completely to God.

As we read the detail description of the Servant in this passage of scripture, it becomes abundantly clear that in light of the scripture itself, and the fulfillment of this scripture in the New Testament, that it refers to Jesus who...

- had nothing going for him that the world would see as giving him power,
- laid down his life for the sins of all mankind as a guilt offering,
- was raised and lifted up and highly exalted by God.

Questions to stimulate discussion on applying God's word:

1. What was there about Jesus that pleased his Father in heaven?
2. What lessons can we learn from Jesus and apply to our lives?
3. Many in the world have gleaned from the Bible, and other classical literature, character qualities that are worthy of pursuit. Why does mankind struggle in living up to and exhibiting such fine qualities?
4. What gives the Christian an edge over others who attempt to live up to such noble standards?
5. What keeps that power from working to its full potential in our lives as Christians?
6. Is your heavenly Father pleased with the way you live your life?
7. What would you like to begin doing differently to please him more?
8. What do you need to do to invoke the power of God to help you do it?
9. What can we do as a group to encourage and support you?