

Adult Group Study Guide for November 29, 2020
Exposing Puny Objects
Isaiah 53 and Philippians 2:5-8

Goal: To discard puny objects and attitudes in favor of serving Jesus.

Key Verse: *...rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. – Philippians 2:7 (NIV)*

1. When was the last time that you read or watched the stories *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens (with Scrooge as the main character) and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Suss? What do the stories have in common? What do they teach about the meaning and worth of giving gifts to others?

2. Do you agree with the observation on American life from the French diplomat, Alexis de Tocqueville, that “each citizen is habitually engaged in the contemplation of a very puny object, namely himself”? Why or why not?

3. Read Isaiah 53:6. What does Isaiah say about how people live their lives? How does selfishness affect our character? Do the names “pirate” and “parasite” describe some of your attitudes and behaviors?

4. Isaiah 53 paints a picture of the coming Messiah. How does this picture compare to a painting of Jesus that you have seen or the image of Jesus that you have in your mind? What does Isaiah 53 teach us about the character of Jesus and how we can break out of our selfishness?

5. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Why is the incarnation and birth of Jesus such an important part of our faith? In what other ways did Jesus humble himself? Read Philippians 2:9-11. Where did the humiliation of the cross lead Jesus? What hope does this provide for us?

6. Read Matthew 20:24-28; Mark 9:33-35; and 1 Peter 2:16-17. What would change if you adopted the same attitude toward life as Christ Jesus?