

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. *Isaiah 53:5* 

## Scars that heal

Every scar has a story.

The scar on the athlete's knee tells of the torn ligament and the lost season. The scar on the child's chin tells of the hard fall when learning to ride a bike. Do you remember the stories behind your scars?

Over 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about the scars the suffering Savior would receive. We cringe as the nails drew innocent blood from Jesus' hands and feet on a cross. We sigh as the spear pierced his lifeless body. Do you remember the story behind Jesus' scars?

Jesus' scars tell the seriousness of sin. Our holy God demands that sin be punished, and the punishment deserved for our sin is death. But Jesus' scars also tell the seriousness of God's peace. Jesus willingly and lovingly took the punishment in our place. He got what we deserved. In exchange, he gives us what we didn't deserve—his forgiveness and peace.

Every scar has a story.

But not all scars are visible. Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, was scarred with doubt. He wouldn't believe Jesus had risen unless he saw the scars and touched them. Jesus appeared and removed all doubt. Jesus' scars brought Thomas what Isaiah had prophesied long ago—healing peace. They still do!

Do you have any "invisible scars?" Are you scarred by grief? Have you been hurt by a friend or bullied by an enemy? Do you have deep pains inside from some heavy burden? Then, remember Isaiah's words. Look upon Jesus' scars. Find healing and peace in Jesus!

Prayer: Jesus, heal my wounds physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Help me to find healing and peace in your wounds and your great love for me. Amen.