



KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Isaiah 53**
- **Philippians 2:6-8**
- **Hebrews 12:2-3**

VIDEO

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BIG IDEA

The thought of being embraced by Jesus could be challenging for many of us. When we hear the word, embrace, we may think of a physical hug. Now, I believe the best hug awaits us when we see Jesus face to face, but until that day, we should understand that Jesus has been embracing us even before we knew Him. Another definition of the word embrace is to accept. The Word of God tells us how He chose to embrace us by accepting us enthusiastically, even though we have not always embraced Him.

Jesus chose to come to earth and embrace all of mankind, but most did not receive him. In Luke chapter 4, when Jesus read the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue telling the people that He had come to release the captives, heal the blind, free the oppressed, and pour out His favor, instead of embracing Him, they became angry and tried to kill Him.

Luke 4:28-30

28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; 29 and they got up, drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, to throw Him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, He went His way.

- **His Embrace is Unconditional.**

Romans 5:6 NLT

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us, sinners.

- **His Embrace is Undeserved.**

Romans 5:2 NLT

2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

- **His Embrace is Unexplainable**

Luke 23:33-34 NLT

33 When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Isaiah 53:3-8

3 He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. 4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. 7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. 8 Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which characteristic of the embrace of Jesus is most impactful for you?
2. What are some barriers that could prevent us from fully experiencing the embrace of Jesus?
3. In what ways does the choice of Jesus to embrace us challenge you?

PRAYER/REFLECTION

Take a moment to pray for one another's needs and reflect on the impact of this study on our everyday way of living.

Lord Jesus,

As we consider these thoughts and read these words from Isaiah telling us of the great sacrifice you made for us and our sins, we choose to embrace you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We may not fully understand your choice to embrace us, but we are eternally grateful that you did.

*In your mighty and powerful name, we pray,
Amen*