**Mary’s Christmas – The Sword in the Soul**

**Q & A – Text 519-893-2951 or email shayne@pathwaycc.ca**

***Luke 2:22-40***

**Jesus will cause the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of many.**

***Acts 19:23-41, Mark 3***

**“There is an offensiveness to Jesus and everyone who identifies with him will be seen as offensive too.” Tim Keller**

**A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your own soul too.**

***Isaiah 53:3-6***

**“The key to making sense of her son’s suffering and death lay in the words spoken about him before and just after his birth.” …**

**“As Mary watched, unable to save her son, it’s possible she remembered the events of the first Christmas and began to understand that, though she could not save him, his suffering would save her and all of humankind.” Adam Hamilton**

**Take Aways**

**1. Jesus’ birth was leading somewhere.**

**2. Mary followed her son for the rest of her days.**

**LifeGroup Questions**

1. Spend some time sharing about your past week and about your Christmas season.
2. What is something you are looking forward to in 2023?
3. How has God been speaking to you this past week?
4. Why do you think the words Simeon spoke to Mary, are rarely focused on at Christmas time?
5. Read Isaiah 53 together.
6. What stands out to you in this passage?
7. What do you find the most challenging? Why?
8. What does this passage reveal to us?
9. Re-read Vs 2. What do you think this verse means? What connection can we see here to the Christmas Story?
10. The idea that Jesus died for the sins of world is not always a popular belief in popular culture. Why do you think this is?
11. List all the different ways this Isaiah prophecy points to Jesus in this passage. How do these pictures line up with Simeon’s words to Mary?
12. Have you ever thought about what happened to Mary after the cross? How does knowing that she was a part of the early church impact how you think of her?
13. Spend some time praying for each other as you wrap up.