

THE CHURCH IS A REDEEMED PEOPLE

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN COMMUNITY
SERIES: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CHURCH

BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH IS A REDEEMED PEOPLE

Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Luke 1:68; Hebrews 9:12; Nehemiah 1:10; Isaiah 43:1

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23-25A

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”

BIG IDEAS

- Redemption is God's action of purchasing a people out of slavery.
- Jesus was the atoning sacrifice to pay the price for our freedom and redemption.
- Sin no longer has power over those who have been set free in Christ.

BIBLE PASSAGE: EXODUS 12; HEBREWS 9-10

UNITE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as “God's People” and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- God has always been making and keeping a people for Himself
- In this age, the church is God's people
- Being a part of God's people should inform every aspect of our lives



Every student should feel...

- Love for God and the people of God
- Accountable to God and to the church to pursue holiness
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Study the connections between God's people in the Old Testament
- and the church in the New Testament
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Invite others into God's people, the church



Every student should want...

- Be marked by their faith
- Talk about God every day, in every setting and circle of influence
- Live as a faithful member of their local church

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23-25A

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”

God's people need redemption because of their sinfulness.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

- God is a perfect and holy God who is righteous in every way. His glory is revealed through His perfect character and His holiness. Mankind is not perfect. Every person needs the redemption offered through Jesus. As Paul writes in these verses, every person falls short of the achieving the glory of God because of their sinfulness.
- The sin nature that every person is born with leads them away from God and down a path of destruction. No person seeks God or chooses to obey Him because we are all blinded by our sinfulness.

God's people are redeemed through Jesus' blood.

“...and are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood...”

- Redemption is provided as a gift because God is a gracious God. Grace is receiving something not earned or deserved, and God gives His grace to mankind through His Son, Jesus. God's graciousness leads Him to offer this redemption as a gift, meaning that it cannot be earned by anyone.
- God sent His Son to the earth to live the life that we could not live. Jesus lived the perfect life without sin and died on the cross in our place. He took on our sin and paid the penalty that was required for our sinfulness. God looked on His death as sufficient to cover our sin debt. Now, every person who believes in Him is justified by this free gift of grace.

God's people are redeemed by faith.

“...to be received by faith.”

- The gift of redemption would not be a gift if it required any work on our part. If mankind could earn this redemption, it would be something that we do and not something that God has done. Instead, it is received by faith in the work that God has done on our behalf.
- Jesus does the work of paying our sin debt. We have faith in His work and God sees it as sufficient and complete. This is when we are redeemed and set free from the debt we owe.

BIG IDEA #1: REDEMPTION IS GOD'S ACTION OF PURCHASING A PEOPLE OUT OF SLAVERY.¹

[THIS]

In Exodus 12, we read the story of the first Passover for God's people, the Israelites. This holy ceremony occurred while they were enslaved in Egypt, and it involved the last plague God brought against Pharaoh and Egypt. The firstborn of every family would die if that family had not slaughtered an unblemished lamb and placed its blood over their doorpost. For those homes that had blood on their doorposts, the Angel of Death would pass over them, and death would not invade their home. But for those who failed to do what had been commanded, the Angel of Death would take the life of their firstborn. This last judgment against Egypt was symbolic of the Passover Lamb who would come—God's Son. The final Passover Lamb would provide the redemption needed to purchase God's people out of their enslavement to their sin. He would give them life.

[THEREFORE]

Consider the story of the first Passover in Exodus 12. How does this story point to the coming of Jesus and God's ultimate redemption of His people?

When God rescued His people in Exodus 12, He did so by sending the angel of death to Egypt. While He did send death because of Pharaoh's hard heart, He provided a way for redemption through His institution of the Passover. This story points to God's provision of redemption through His Son Jesus who is the perfect Passover Lamb.

[THIS]

God rescued His people from their slavery in Egypt with His final plague. It was the plague that opened the door for Moses to lead the people out of their bondage. God chose death as the means through which to set the Israelites free. All the other plagues had caused discomfort and had shown His power, yet it was the final plague of taking the firstborn through death that led to their freedom. God's firstborn Son, Jesus, later became the sacrificial lamb for all people. Just as every household who chose to obey God's command to place blood over their doorpost chose a lamb without blemish to slaughter, Jesus became the sacrificial lamb without blemish that God sacrificed on our behalf. God redeemed mankind from our sin by providing redemption through Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

Just as Pharaoh's heart was hardened multiple times against God, our hearts harden against God. What are some of the things that blind us to the redemption that God offers to us?

In 1 Peter 1:17-21, we see that every person once followed futile ways of thinking and living. These ways are what blind us to God's redemption. It is from these prideful, self-trusting ways that God redeems us.

Redemption is God's action. What part do people play in their own redemption? How do we participate in our redemption story?

God's plan of redemption is His action towards mankind. Mankind does not earn redemption, mankind only receives redemption. Colossians 1:14 reminds us that it is through Christ we have the forgiveness of our sins and receive redemption. We are on the receiving end of God's redemption.

1. Deuteronomy 7:8: *God redeems His people from slavery in Egypt just as He redeems every sinner from their sin debt through faith in Jesus.*

BIG IDEA #2: JESUS WAS THE ATONING SACRIFICE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR OUR FREEDOM AND REDEMPTION.²

[THIS]

Through the story of Israel's redemption from Egypt, God foreshadowed the coming of Christ and the need for atonement. For a household to receive mercy from God when He was preparing to exact the final plague on Egypt, a sacrifice had to be made. The same is true for all of mankind. To receive mercy and grace, we needed an atoning sacrifice. No person was sufficient to make this sacrifice; therefore, God provided this atoning sacrifice. Jesus became the sacrificial lamb who served as the atonement for all people. Atonement is the process used to remove obstacles to a person's reconciliation to God. Prior to the life and death of Jesus, people made atonement for their sins through blood sacrifices. Their atonement would only satisfy their debt for a time until they had to repeat the sacrificial process. Jesus' atoning sacrifice of himself paid our sin debt completely and in full.

[THEREFORE]

Read Hebrews 9:11-15. What does it mean that Jesus has secured "eternal redemption" for those who believe? Why is the redemption eternal?

Because Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, his atonement for our sin is complete. The death of Jesus is seen as satisfactory for the debt owed by mankind. No other sin sacrifice needs to be made, because Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice. His death was sufficient, and its sufficiency means that our redemption is forever.

[THIS]

When God led Israel out of Egypt, He set them free from their enslavement. They were no longer in bondage to the Egyptians. Instead, they were free to serve God and worship Him as He had commanded them to do. When Jesus died for mankind, his death was sufficient to purchase the freedom of every person from their sin bondage. Now, everyone who believes in Jesus as the Savior is set free. They are redeemed from their sin debt, and they are set free from the hold that sin has over them. They can live freed from the snares of this world and the sin nature that every person is born with. Instead, redeemed people can live for God, having the eyes of their hearts enlightened to understand the truths of God through His Word. They are free men and women who can worship God and serve Him as His children.

[THEREFORE]

How does your freedom in Christ change how you think about your life? What thoughts about living for Christ does it impact?

In Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 5:17, we see that everyone who is a believer is a new creation and are set free to live for Him. Because we, are set free from our old natures, we do not have to continue sinning. This means that we have a freedom that can impact our daily lives.

Why is it so difficult to live in the freedom that Christ has purchased for us?

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus warns that no person can serve two masters. The idea he is presenting is that a person cannot have a heart devoted to two separate things. He or she will love one thing and hate the other. We can find it challenging to live in the freedom we have because we are still trying to live for the world and Christ at the same time.

2. Hebrews 9:11-12: Jesus is the sacrifice for mankind once and for all, and His sacrifice is sufficient.

BIG IDEA #3: SIN NO LONGER HAS POWER OVER THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SET FREE IN CHRIST.³

[THIS]

To be set free is to be released from the person or thing that once held you captive. For God's people, the Israelites, they were set free from the Egyptians and Pharaoh, their harsh ruler. Once free of them, the Egyptians no longer had power over the Israelites. There were no slave drivers to beat them if they failed to work or a powerful Pharaoh who could take their lives from them. Instead, they were free from the chains and bondage that had once held them. Today, God's people are set free, and sin loses its power over them because of the work of Christ. Jesus' death on the cross defeated death and sin and sets the captive free. It is through the awakening of the Spirit that God draws people to Himself and redeems by their faith in Jesus. This saving faith releases them from their former way of living. They live different lives that are reflective of Christ and are less and less like the world each day.

[THEREFORE]

What are some ways that sin has power over people who do not believe in Jesus? How do you see this at play in the world around you?

Ephesians 4:18 reminds us that those who are not in Christ have darkened minds and do not understand God's truth. This is how the world lives when they are enslaved to sin. We see this at play in the world through the rejection of truth and the denial of morality. What was once held as truth is now rejected.

How does remembering that sin no longer has power over you help you have a more personal relationship with Christ?

In Romans 8:1, John 3:18, and Ephesians 2:8-9, we are reminded that believers no longer face condemnation. This is because sin no longer has power, and we no longer owe a sin debt. Believers are free to pursue Christ, and even when we fail, we are not cast out because we are no longer enslaved.

[THIS]

When God's people left Egypt, they left their old way of life. They were no longer the slaves of Pharaoh bound in chains and condemned to spend their days building another nation. They were free to be God's people and to build their own lives. When a person has saving faith in Jesus, he or she is set free to live for Christ. This freedom means that sin no longer reigns in their hearts. A believer can live in obedience to God's commands in His Word. A believer can pursue God and live reconciled to Him. This produces the Christlikeness that God asks of believers. Even when a person stumbles and gives in to temptation, there is forgiveness. Even greater than that, he or she can know that they are not bound to that attitude, mindset, or behavior. They can be free of it.

[THEREFORE]

Because sin no longer has power over God's people, how can the church live obediently for Christ?

Colossians 1:20-22 reminds us that those who are in Christ have been reconciled to Him and can live fully for Him. This means that God's gathered group of people, the church, can live obediently for Him because they are no longer darkened in their minds or alienated from Him. They have the help of the Holy Spirit guiding them as promised in John 14:26.

3. Galatians 5:1: Christ died on the cross that we might be free, and we are free to live for Him.