

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 1:7-8

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

What is Redemption? Why did you need it? Read the following verses to help answer this question.

- **Read and discuss** Lev. 25:47-55.
- **Read and discuss** Deuteronomy 7:6-8 & Deuteronomy 9:26.
- **Read and discuss** Matthew 20:28

4 – Points of Sunday’s sermon

- The Redeemer
- The Redeemed
- The Price of Redemption
- The Results of Redemption

I. The Redeemer

- What does it mean to be “in Him” or “in the Beloved?”
- **Read Romans 15:7.** In this, Paul reminds the Christians at Rome that they have been “received” or “welcomed” (that is, “accepted”) by Christ. This theme is echoed in Eph. 1:6. What is so significant about this concept?

- **Read & discuss the following quote by John MacArthur** – “There are no second class Christians, no deprived citizens of God’s Kingdom or children in His family. Every sin of every believer is forgiven forever. God knows how we were, how we are now, and how we will live the rest of our lives. He sees everything about us in stark-naked reality. Yet he says, ‘I am satisfied with you because I am satisfied with My Son, to whom you belong. When I look at you, I see Him and I am well pleased.’”

II. The Redeemed

- **Verses 3-14** state clearly that God receives glory, pleasure, and praise from our salvation. What do we receive from God’s gracious hand in redemption? Try to be specific.
- How does the previous answer encourage you to trust God in future obedience?
- Read the following verses and discuss the condition of our hearts before salvation.
 - Jeremiah 17:9
 - Ezekiel 11:19
 - Acts 7:51
 - Colossians 2:13
- Using the definition of redemption from Sunday’s sermon and as discussed earlier, read the following verses and discuss why we needed a redeemer.
 - John 8:34
 - Romans 6:6
 - Romans 6:16-17
- Before salvation did you feel like you were enslaved to sin? Why or why not?

III. The Price of Redemption

- **Read 1 Peter 1:18-19** and discuss what the price of redemption was and how that shows us just how indebted we truly were before salvation.
 - **Leaders Cheat:** some extra verses to help answer this question.
 - Genesis 2:16
 - Romans 6:23a
 - Leviticus 17:11
 - Hebrews 9:22

- **Read and discuss** Romans 3:21-26 and answer the following questions.
 - How does this passage in Romans compare and contrast with the teaching in Eph. 1:7?
 - What do verses 25-26 mean? How is this related to the Old Testament?
 - What does it mean in verse 26 that God is both “just and the justifier”?
 - **Harold Hoehner** - For God to be the just and the justifier of the ungodly, the legal demands of the law had to be satisfied (Rom. 3:21-26). A life of perfect, righteous obedience was needed. Therefore, salvation is free for the sinner but not for the Savior. Christ merited perfect righteousness by keeping the conditions of the law of God perfectly. He paid for His people’s sins by taking on the curse of the law while upon the cross. (Gal. 3:13)

IV. The Results of Redemption.

- Do you live as if you are forgiven? Explain.
 - **Read and discuss** Psalm 103:10-12 & Micah 7:18-19 in relation to forgiveness.
- Do you feel free from the slavery of sin? Explain.
 - **Read and discuss** the following verses in relation to freedom.
 - John 8:36
 - Gal. 5:1
 - 1 Peter 2:16
 - Romans 6:22
- **Read Galatians 5:13** and discuss how you are using your freedom to serve one another
 - **Leaders Cheat:** *One another refers to Christians within the Church.*
- How can we as a group help keep each other accountable in using our freedom to serve each other at COBC?