

a beautiful design

WEEK 5

MAN'S REDEMPTION

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the study guide in your Home Group, be sure to work through the questions on your own before you meet. If your Home Group doesn't meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series. For further study, explore the Recommended Resources on our website.

RECAP: Last week we considered how sin has affected the hearts of men. What God entrusted to men is twisted by man's inability to be a faithful steward without drifting toward the abuse of authority in selfish aggression or the rejection of authority in selfish passivity. Sin has broken us so that we think we'll find happiness in passivity or aggression. Similar to how Adam's silence in the Garden during Eve's conversation with the serpent "let sin enter," men who embrace passivity and reject what God has called them to do will let sin enter their lives.

MAIN TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

SUMMARY: The beauty of the gospel is that it is for all of humanity. The gospel invades the dark spaces of our lives and drives the darkness away. While the grace of God in salvation is the same for men and women, because of the unique ways that sin bends the hearts of men, the gospel has distinct applications and results in the lives of men. The gospel is the antidote to the way that sin has led men to embrace selfish passivity or selfish aggression. Although man repeatedly wrestles with sin, the cleansing power of the gospel erases all past, present and future failures. Man and his purposes are redeemed through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

GETTING STARTED

What's the most dangerous situation you've ever been in? How did you get out?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What aspect of our world's brokenness typically weighs heavily on your heart?
2. Instead of turning to Christ, we often attempt to manage sin ourselves. How have you tried to manage your sin apart from the Lord?
3. What might your unbelieving friends say are the greatest problems men face? What solutions to these problems might they suggest?
4. John Murray defines redemption as "deliverance from the bondage of sin." How does God redeem sinful humanity? In what ways does God deliver men, in particular, from the bondage of sin?
5. 1 Corinthians 15:22 says, "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive." What were some of the immediate ways that your life changed and "was made alive" when you trusted in Christ for salvation? What areas of change are ongoing?
6. Read Ezekiel 36:22-27 and John 11:38-44. In both of these passages, the redemption of humanity is pictured as the resurrection of dead hearts. How does a resurrected heart cause a godly man to live differently than one who doesn't know the Lord?
7. If your friend bought you lunch, how would you express your gratitude? If a relative paid off your college debt or mortgage, how would you respond? God gave His only Son to suffer in your place and redeem your immortal soul. He paid the price for your life. How have you lived like you take your redemption for granted?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME: Be intentional about gathering your family this week to discuss how the Lord saved you. Tell your family the story of what Christ saved you from and what He has saved you to. Spend some time confessing sin to one another and discuss walking closely with the Lord. This might be as simple as sharing things you want to stop doing and things you want to start doing in order to honor the Lord. Study 1 John 3:16 together and discuss what it looks like to “lay down your life for your brothers.”

MOMENTS: Leverage any opportunity you can this week to direct conversations toward discussions about how the gospel changes people and the way we look at things. Be ready to quote 1 Corinthians 1:18 whenever appropriate: “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Encourage your kids to understand that being different than the world is part of being a Christian and is not to be shied away from.

MILESTONES: If you haven’t already, this would be a great week to discuss baptism with your children. Salvation and baptism are huge milestones in a person’s life, but we don’t make it happen. Pray for your children, that you might be able to mark that milestone soon in their lives. If your kids are already baptized, consider planning how you might celebrate that and remind them of it by pointing back to their salvation, similar to the way we remember birth with a birthday.

In the weeks dealing with men and women particularly, it may be helpful to break up into gender-specific groups. On the other hand, groups of single men or women may consider pairing up with a group of the opposite gender. While this isn’t necessary for fruitful discussion, each group’s leaders should consider what method of discussion would be best for their group.

FOR MEN

1. Where have you seen growth in godliness in your life?
2. Share one example of how the gospel has given you strength to jump a “hurdle” unique to men that you found yourself constantly falling over before Christ.
3. What is one area of your life where, despite being redeemed, you still struggle with passivity? With aggression?
4. How does your new life in Christ impact the way you interact with women? How should the actions of a redeemed man toward women be different than those of worldly men?

FOR WOMEN

1. Share one example of how you have seen redemption impact the heart of a man in your life. If you’re married, where have you seen your husband grow in grace?
2. What man in your life have you viewed as beyond the reach of grace? How could you pray specifically for the Lord to change his heart?
3. How can you help the men in your life find freedom from patterns of passivity or aggression?
4. How does the redemption of man affect the redemption of women? Do you see ways in which your spiritual growth is affected as a result of the growth of the men around you?

NEXT STEPS

- **For men:** Make a list of how your life has changed since you were redeemed. Then, list out areas where you still see a need for growth in godliness.
- **For women:** Make a list of how your view of men has changed since you were redeemed. Then, list out areas where your view still needs to change.
- Read and consider our sermon text for next week: Genesis 2:18-25.

- Spend time in your group encouraging one another. Share how you see growth in godliness taking place in each other's lives. Be specific and talk about how individual growth creates communal growth.
- Commit to memorizing one of the following verses this week:

*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **Ezekiel 36:26***

*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **1 Corinthians 15:22***