



March 2011

The Light of Redemption

DRAW NEAR—Worship and and prepare your heart to hear from God.

Listen to these songs and pray for God to speak to your heart through His Word today.*

- “Redeemer” – Kutless
- “Blessed Redeemer” – Casting Crowns
- “Redemption Song” – Adie Camp
- “Lead Me to the Cross” – Hillsong United
- “Before the Morning” – Josh Wilson
- “Come to Jesus” – Point of Grace
- “This Little Light of Mine” – Addison Road

*These songs reflect the author’s personal music taste and style and not necessarily that of WNAC.

GO DEEP—Dig into the Bible to learn truths from God’s Word.

Do you know what REDEMPTION means?

According to Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary, redemption is the act of redeeming something or someone. It is the act of making something better or more acceptable, to change something for the better, or to make something good or whole again.

Jesus is called our Redeemer. Why do you think He has this title? _____

It’s hard to us to admit that we need redemption. We like to think that we’re pretty good people. We go to church, we read our Bibles, and we try to be nice to people. Yep – we’ve got the *good girl* image down. We’re good people. All that redemption and change stuff if for bad people, right?

Look up Romans 3:23 and write it down here: _____

According to that verse, how many people sinned? _____

So, it we have ALL sinned, don’t we ALL need redemption? In their song, “Come to Jesus,” Point of Grace says, “He did not come to raise the living, or touch the eyes of those who see. It was for the weary and burned out. It was for the unforgivable.” If we didn’t need redemption, Jesus wouldn’t have had to come to earth and die for our sins. _____

The truth is, all of us have something in our lives that separates us from God. We all need redemption so that we can be whole again. And our redemption can only come from Jesus. We can’t earn it ourselves.

In her book *Made to Crave*, Lysa TerKeurst writes about filling our deepest desires with God instead of the things of the world. She points out that many of us get caught up in our circumstances and let those circumstances become our identity.

Maybe you've let your circumstances define you. Check out what Mrs. TerKeurst says about finding her true identity:

"For years I identified myself not by my relationship with God but by my circumstances. I was... Lysa, the broken girl from a broken home. Lysa, the girl rejected by her father...Lysa, the girl who walked away from God after the death of her sister....Then one day, I read a list of who God says I am. I took that list of Scriptures and started to redefine my identity. What a stark contrast to the way I saw myself. I finally realized I didn't have to be defined by my circumstances. Instead, I could live in the reality of who my glorious heavenly Father says I am...I was made to be set free, holy, new, loved, and confident."

Yes, she was saved. But she wasn't living like she had been redeemed. She was still living in her painful past. God wants us to move forward and live in the freedom of redemption! Check out the list of who God says you are from Mrs. TerKeurst's book. Fill in your name before each description, then look up the Scriptures and write them in the blanks.

_____, the forgiven child of God.

Romans 3:24 _____

_____, the set-free child of God.

Romans 8:1-2 _____

_____, the accepted child of God.

1 Corinthians 1:2 _____

_____, the holy child of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30 _____

_____, the made-new child of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 _____

_____, the loved child of God.

Ephesians 1:4 _____

_____, the close child of God.

Ephesians 2:13 _____

_____, the confident child of God.

Ephesians 3:12 _____

_____, the victorious child of God.

Romans 8:37 _____

If you have asked Jesus to come into your heart, you have been saved. God wants to redeem you, to heal you, to love you, and to make you whole. Are you living in a false identity defined by your circumstances, or are you living as a redeemed daughter of the King?

GET REAL—Apply God's Word to your life.

Using the movie *Fireproof* and the following questions, lead your group in discussion about this month's topic.



In the movie *Fireproof*, Caleb and his wife Catherine are in the middle of a failing marriage and are about to get divorced when Caleb's dad asks him to commit to a 40 day "Love Dare" to save his marriage. Caleb agrees, and begins the "Love Dare," but he only does it half-heartedly and he skips the devotions and Bible verses that his dad included with each day's dare. After about 20 days, Caleb is ready to quit.

Watch what Caleb's dad has to say to him in Scene 12 of *Fireproof* (stop the DVD when the screen goes black after Caleb and his dad pray) and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Caleb not think he needed God in his life?
2. Who was Caleb comparing himself to when he said that he was a "good person"?
3. What finally made Caleb "see the Light" and understand that he did need the Redeemer?
4. Caleb's dad pointed out to him that we are not held up to the standards of the people around us, but to God's standards. What do you think are God's standards for your life? Are you meeting those standards? Are there any areas in your life where you need redemption because you have fallen short of God's standards for your life?

Jesus is called our Redeemer. He can take the broken parts of our lives and restore them. After Caleb surrendered to Jesus, his life and marriage were redeemed. Do you have friends that need to meet the Redeemer? Pray for those people this month.

Do you know the Redeemer? If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior and you want to do that today, you can by praying and asking God to come into your heart. Talk to your group leader, pastor, or a trusted Christian friend about your decision.

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Made to Crave by Lysa TerKeurst is available from Zondervan publishing. You can find more information about Lysa TerKeurst on her website www.lysaterkeurst.com

