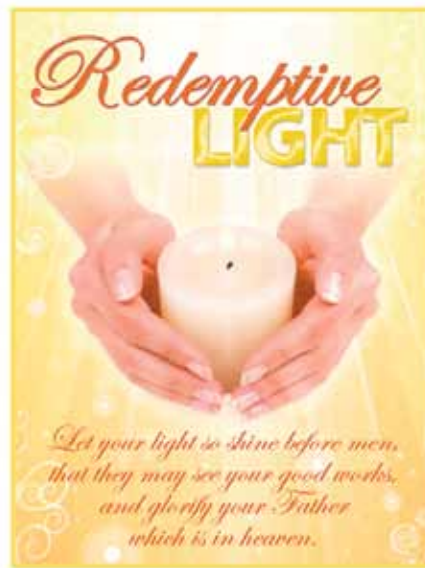


Worship

JESUS: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE
MARCH 2011

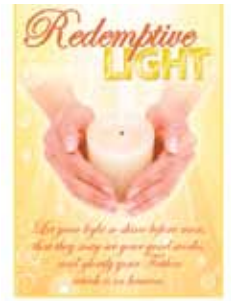


GUIDING LIGHT

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Redemptive LIGHT



FOCAL POINT: We worship Jesus, Light of the World, as our Redeemer and seek to share a testimony of His redemptive work in our lives.

LIGHT FOR THE PATH: Genesis 1; John 1:1-13.

RAYS TO REMEMBER: “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before me, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followed me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Hundreds of little colored pegs filled the holes—placed there by a child playing with her Lite Brite. This didn’t look like much of anything except random pegs on a board. Then she pushed button. The light shining through the pegs made a beautiful picture. I tried it. By changing the pegs around, I could create new and interesting designs.

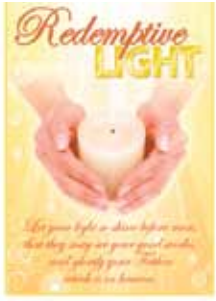
Our lives are similar. They don’t amount to much of anything in the darkness—not until the “The Light” shines in and through us. When the Holy Spirit comes in to live, we brighten up. That’s when we start to display love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith. Others should be able to see and know we have met the true “Light of the World” by the way we react to circumstances we encounter. The way we live is a living testimony. Each day as different situations arise—whether challenging, heartbreaking or joyful—others will be watching to see how we handle each incident.

Shine now while we are still here on earth—it’s our only opportunity. There will come a time when our light goes out. The breath will leave our bodies, our eyes will close, we’ll die and leave these old bodies behind. Thankfully, this is not the end of the story. If we’ve accepted Christ as Savior, then we’ll live forever with the Light of the World. That makes me excited.

Our sole motivation for witnessing is to tell others about Jesus and the ransom He paid for sinners. I don’t want to miss out on all God offers to all who believe. I tend to think you feel the same way or you wouldn’t be studying with us. Just in case you’re searching, let this study reveal to you the real reason for living and the joy of serving the Creator and Redeemer.

Redemption's Promise

- ✿ Write the Rays to Remember on a 3x5 card for inspiration and review this month.
- ✿ Go over the questions and answers on p. 25 together.
- ✿ Do you believe Jesus came for everyone? (See John 3:16 and Romans 10:12.)
- ✿ Select someone to read Romans 10:13 and Revelation 22:17. Do you notice the words, “Whosoever”? What does that tell us?
- ✿ Is He the *only way* to be saved? (Yes—John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 10:9.)
- ✿ Pastor Richard Hendrix (my pastor) says, “Christianity is unique. It backs up the credentials of Jesus. History has not laughed at His claim.” Do you agree or disagree?
- ✿ What do you say to those who claim that all religions are basically the same?
- ✿ Do you know enough about what you believe to back up your beliefs? (See John 5:39 and 2 Timothy 2:15.)



✿ Three things back up our Christian beliefs about redemption: (1) Redemption is of God—Isaiah 43:1; Luke 1:68. (2) Redemption is of Christ—Matthew 20:28; Galatians 3:13. (3) Redemption is by the blood of Christ—Acts 20:28; Hebrews 9:12. *(These verses are by no means exhaustive. You may want to look up other Scriptures on your own.)*

✿ Robert Morgan in his book, *The Promise*, says that “Christ’s redemption goes beyond the spiritual; it extends to all our life situations. His blood, like a rampaging flood, carries all our circumstances into the channels of God’s redemptive grace. So not only do our sins fall under the pardon of His blood, our cares are swallowed up in His providence.” Hearing this, how do you feel?

✿ Throughout the Bible, we find God’s promises to us:

- Promises that comfort (Psalm 23:4; Romans 15:4; Acts 9:31)
- Promises that give security (Proverbs 3:24; Hebrews 13:6; Psalm 91:5)
- Promises of protection (Psalm 125:2; Ephesians 6:11)
- Promises of provision (Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 30:9; Psalm 68:19)
- Promises of redemption (Psalm 130:8; Revelation 5:9).

Look up some of these promises and write them in a notebook or journal.

✿ Close in prayer. Ask God to give you insight and wisdom as you study about God’s redemption and His promise to give us light for our footsteps.

Redemption's Price

✿ Read the Rays to Remember again.

✿ Go over the questions and answers on p. 26 together.

✿ What does redemption mean? (*"An act of redeeming; deliverance; rescue; atonement for guilt; repurchase, as of something sold; paying off, as of a mortgage or bond; recovery by payment, as of something pledged; and in Theology—deliverance from sin; salvation."* SOURCE: DICTIONARY.COM)

✿ What comes to mind when you think of the price God paid for our redemption? (*God gave His only Son for us, which is in itself mind boggling—John 3:16-17.*)

✿ Man’s redemption required a price. Why? (*Sin—Romans 3:23-24; 1 Corinthians 6:20.*)

✿ Why did God give His Son? (We needed a Savior to redeem us—Acts 5:30-31; John 6:40.)

✿ Even the disciples asked, “Who then can be saved?” (Matthew 19:24-25). (*Those who trust completely in Jesus can be saved. It’s dangerous to trust in anything else.*)

✿ In your journal, list the three phases of redemption and these accompanying Scriptures:

- (1) Justification—Romans 4:5,24-25; Romans 5:1
- (2) Sanctification—1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Timothy 2:21
- (3) Glorification—Romans 8:17, 30.

✿ Aren't you thankful salvation included you?

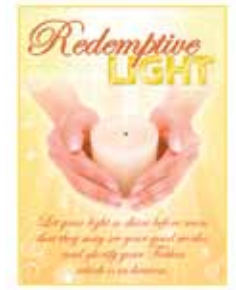
✿ We find that redemption is precious (Psalm 49:8), plenteous (Psalm 130:7) and eternal (Hebrews 9:12).

✿ Can we praise God too much for what He did for us on the cross? (*Never forget the beatings, the mocking, the sorrow, loneliness, or agony of Jesus’ last few hours—Mark 15:17-20, 33-34.*)

✿ Are you ready to praise Him yet? Then read this verse. (*Read aloud Titus 2:13-14.*)

✿ Close in prayer with praise and thanksgiving for God’s redemption plan.

Redemption's Prompting



✿ Say the Rays to Remember again. Count the number of times you see light in these two verses. Did you find six?

✿ Go over the questions and answers on p. 27 together.

✿ Why would being redeemed make us shine?

✿ Without a light, we are in darkness. Who holds power in darkness? (*Satan—Acts 26:18.*)

✿ It's clear from the above verse that Jesus came to turn people from darkness to the light. What two things does He give? ((1) *Forgiveness of sins* (2) *Inheritance among the sanctified in the faith.*)

✿ What is Satan called in 2 Corinthians 11:14? (*An angel of light.*)

✿ Why would he have that name? (*He is a deceiver and can transform himself into something he's not. He desires to have us just as he desired the disciples—Luke 22:31.*)

✿ Do we have to remain in darkness? (*No—1 Corinthians 4:4-5.*)

✿ In your journal, list some songs with the theme of "Redemption." (*A few examples in REJOICE, The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book include: "Since I Have Been Redeemed" p. 302; "Redeemed" p. 301; "I'm Redeemed" p. 296; "The Love of God" p. 65; "Whosoever" Meaneth Me' p. 297. But, there are many songs about God's redemption found in a number of places.*)

✿ Close in prayer. Thank God for the prompting of the Holy Spirit in your life, which drew you to redemption.

Redemption's Priority

✿ If anyone has memorized either of the Rays to Remember, allow individuals to say both verse now. If not, read them as a group.

✿ Go over the questions and answers on p. 28.

✿ In your journal, list the steps for preparing your testimony mentioned on p. 29.

(1.) *Prepare prayerfully.*

(2.) *Prepare by writing out words.*

(3.) *Share with someone.*

(4.) *Live a consistent life.*

✿ Why is step four so very important to a testimony for God?

✿ What was Jesus' main goal in coming to earth? (*To seek and to save the lost—Luke 19:10; Matthew 18:11; 20:28.*)

✿ Was His mission the same? (*Yes*)

✿ Why do people reject Jesus? (*They love darkness rather than light—John 3:19.*)

✿ Have you ever tried to witness to someone who is totally blinded to the truth?

✿ Was it an easy thing to do?

✿ What was the outcome of your witnessing?

✿ Besides Paul, name others in the Bible who were tremendous witnesses for Christ. (*All the disciples after the resurrection, the woman at the well, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, Dorcas and Stephen were notable witnesses.*)



- ✿ Is there someone you know who openly shares his/her testimony?
- ✿ Do you enjoy hearing testimonies, not only of redemption, but of instances when God has healed or provided miracles in people's lives?
- ✿ Besides your family, who might be good candidates for your witness? (*waitresses and waiters, repairmen, hair dressers, check-out clerks, neighbors, etc.*)
- ✿ Close in prayer. Ask God to give you boldness, courage and opportunity as a witness for Christ.

In Closing...

If we're not shining for Jesus, then our *light* has dimmed or, sadly, burned out completely. I definitely do not want that to happen to me. As long as the Lord lets me live, I intend to serve, obey, live, worship and magnify Jesus' name in my life. You may say, "Well, that sounds high and mighty." It may, but that is exactly why Jesus saved me in the first place. He wants me to serve Him with my whole heart, mind and soul. He desires that I trust and obey His Word. He wants me to live a holy, set-apart life for Him. He loves for me to worship and magnify His name. He is a righteous God. There is none beside Him. He alone is worthy of our praise and honor. I'm urging you to do everything you can to stand for Jesus so that on Judgment day, He'll say, "...Well, done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).