

The background consists of a complex arrangement of overlapping triangles in various shades of red and pink, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern. The colors range from deep, dark reds to bright, vibrant pinks and oranges.

Redeemed

As a Church, we collectively learned from the life of Jonah over the past month. It encouraged us, challenged us, gave us new perspective, and mostly revealed to us how much God delights in using us to play out His magnificent plan of redemption.

As we wrap up 2018, we want to spend the last couple weeks pressing into that very plan. Redemption is a word we throw around often, but rarely do we take a moment to realize that it is a master plan and a daily action. God is using each moment of our days to weave together a story of redemption.

God. Is. Redeeming.

That is what we want to walk out of 2018 and into 2019 proclaiming. Join us on this adventure for the next three weeks and see what the Lord does!

Week One

Praying for eyes to see ourselves in the redemption story.

Read Ruth 1:1 – 22.

What is the definition of redemption?

To understand the redemption story we are about to walk through, read Deuteronomy 23:3–6. Why did God banish the Moabites from entering the Israelite community?

What did this mean for Ruth?

When have you felt bitter against God?

How have you dealt with that bitterness?

If you haven't, what might be the consequences of never dealing with the bitterness in your heart?

Who do you need to talk with / what action do you need to take?

Read Galatians 4:4-5.

If redemption precedes sonship, what in your life is keeping you from operating out of your adoption into the family?

In this story, Ruth's simple and consistent acts of faithfulness have Kingdom size ramifications -your story has the same potential for influence.

// CHALLENGE //

As redeemed people, it is our assignment to share with the world around us of his works. Psalm 107:2 says it best:

"Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.." This holiday season let's commit to being intentional in sharing our story of redemption.

Share with someone this week where and how you see the Lords redeeming character around you.

Week Two

Praying for eyes to see the people around us in the redemption story.

Read Ruth 2:1-3:5.

How has suffering changed the way you see God or how He works when you face difficulties?

How does your faithfulness to God influence your attitude and actions?

Who around you needs to know the redemptive qualities of God?

What would it look like for you to be like Ruth in your family / relationships? What might you have to sacrifice to selflessly serve others as she served Naomi?

We believe that we are all a part of a God ordained story. That means that we are all a part of many different small stories that make up the big one. How do you see God using you to reveal Himself to them?

// CHALLENGE //

All too often we expect the presence of God to come in like a mighty rushing wind – and sometimes it does. However, most of the time it does not. Most of the time it is simply receiving Christ's love offering, being compelled from that love offering and acting in obedience, then giving away the same love offering. That is how we experience the presence of God – when we sit with Him [read His word, talk to Him, sing praises], receive from him, and then give away what He gave to us.

Ruth displayed deep love to and devotion for Naomi in this story. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one relationship this week and a situation where you can sacrificially love that person. How did that person respond? What did that action do in your heart?

Week Three

Praying for eyes to see Christ in the redemption story.

Read Ruth 3:6- 4:22.

How do you see God's redeeming character in this story?

How does the bird's eye view of this story change the way you see the details of your life?

How does this give us hope in our own lives as we see the work He did in Ruth and Naomi?

In your life, what does it look like to actively pursue God? Are there times when it is tempting to become passive in your pursuit when you are waiting on Him? How do you fight that temptation?

Read Romans 1:2-4.

This chapter ends with a list of names in the lineage of Jesus. Why do you think the author concludes the story that way?

Read Philippians 2:6-11.

In response to these words, ask God to give you fresh eyes to see the beauty of Jesus's sacrifice. What does He reveal?

// CHALLENGE //

In the book of Jonah we read about all the animals and plants that God appointed to be a part of the redemption story of Jonah. God has a plan and he doesn't need us to be a part of it, but oh how He delights when we join in. This week, will you ask the Holy Spirit how he wants to appoint you in the lives of people around you? What barley field does he want you to work in?

For more scripture on God's story of redemption.
Luke 1:68-75
Romans 3:22-24
Galatians 3:13-14, 4:4-5
Colossians 1:13-14
1 Peter 1:18-21



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