



IDENTITY THEFT

CAMOUFLAGED BY CULTURE



Week 2 Leader Guide

THE WIN

Each group member will be able to express how they have been freed from the guilt of the past and are now living in God's grace.

- What did you feel as you heard the message?

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Recall the main points from this week's message:

- I am redeemed by God so I am rescued
- I am redeemed by God so I am forgiven
- I am redeemed by God so I am included
- What did you feel as you heard the message?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Ask This:

- Have you, or someone you know ever received an inheritance? What was inherited?
- How would you rate the experience?

30-40
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Say This:

Will someone please read Ephesians 1:7-10?

Ask This:

- How would you define the word redemption?
- What is your favorite book or movie where redemption is the Theme? What could we learn from it?
- How does Christ's redemption demonstrate God's love for people?

Say This:

The Greek word that we interpret as redemption is the same word that would be used to describe the act of purchasing a slave and setting him free or "loosing" (freeing) someone from chains, slavery, or prison.

Ask This:

- Since we have been freed from the impact of sin how should that truth change the way we live?
- How has Christ rescued you? What were you rescued from?
- How does God's redemption help us battle against our sinful nature?

Leader Tip: *Be sensitive to group members who may not have a relationship with Jesus. If this is the case, you might consider an alternate activity such as asking for volunteers to verbally communicate their rescue story.*

Say This:

It is important to recognize the relationship between redemption and forgiveness. Redeemed by God means we are now free to choose God because we are no longer enslaved by sin; forgiven by God means we are free from the guilt that once covered us because of our sin.

Leader Tip: *This is Important!! Read this 2x emphasizing redemption and forgiveness*

Do This:

Have individuals read: Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 44:22, 1 John 1:9

Ask This:

- If we believe that these scriptures are true, why do we still tend to hold on to the guilt and sins of our past?
- Why is it that our culture sometimes recognizes the value of forgiveness but rejects Jesus' forgiveness?
- Would someone share how they have struggled with the concept of past, present and future sins being completely forgiven?

Recall vs. 8

"He **lavished** on us with all wisdom and understanding."

Ask This:

- What image do you see in your mind when you hear the word lavish?
- How does v.8 impact your outlook on Christ's involvement in your life?

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

"He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He planned in Him for the administration of the days of fulfillment—to bring everything together in the Messiah, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him" Ephesians 1:9-10.

Ask This:

- What do you think the "mystery of His will" means?

Leader Tip: "Paul does not mean that God's will is secret in the way that the mystery religions of Asia Minor taught. "mystery" meant the revelation of a component of God's plan so that it now can be understood by all. Specifically the mystery involved the fulfillment of God's plan to bring everything together in the Messiah." HCSB Commentary

3-5
minutes

CLOSING THOUGHT

Think of all the people in your life: co-workers, neighbors, friends and family who do not know Christ. Without Christ in their life they cannot experience being rescued, forgiven or included and they are doomed to live eternally in Hell. Pray that God would use you and would open doors of opportunity so that you can share the hope of redemption.