

Message Discussion Guide

CHAPTER 43: REDEEMED FOR A REASON

The Church at Brook Hills Dr. David Platt November 14, 2010 Luke 23—24 and Acts 1—2

This guide is designed to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God’s Word. There may be questions you do not want to use, and there may be instances when you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience, not complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool rather than a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Ask group members to share the latest piece of news they’ve told to more than one person. This might include Facebook status updates or Tweets, or even a forwarded email. Discuss: **Why did you want to share your news with others? Was it good news or bad news—or neither?** Emphasize that thanks to technology, many people share every tiny detail of their lives with others. Explain that today you’ll look at the “why” behind sharing the best news of all—the Gospel.

Option 2

Ask if anyone in the group has ever encountered a child who asks the question, “Why?” to everything he or she experiences. Allow volunteers to share how the conversation went and likely how it ended with the adult saying he or she doesn’t know. Discuss this question: **Why is the “why” important in life?** Emphasize that even though there are many things in life that we’ll never know the full “why” to, we do know the “why” behind our redemption—and it should motivate our every breath.

Review the Message . . .

The book of Luke is named for its author, who was probably a Gentile. Luke was well educated in Greek culture and was a physician by profession. Luke served as a companion to Paul from his second missionary journey to his first imprisonment in Rome, a loyal friend to the end. This gospel is a companion to the Book of Acts, also written by Luke.

REDEEMED FOR A REASON

Luke 23-24 and Acts 1-2

As The Church Around The World...

- We receive the _____ grace _____ of Christ.
 - Sacrifice: He has died our _____ death _____.
 - Propitiation: He has endured our _____ condemnation _____.

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- Reconciliation: He has suffered our _____ separation _____.
- Redemption: He has paid our _____ debt _____.

Discussion . . .

- Give your group a minute or two to read silently Luke 23:13-24:8.
- Look at each of the words in the blanks above (sacrifice, propitiation, reconciliation, redemption). Allow volunteers to share how Jesus did each of those things for us based on that passage.

Application . . .

- Everyone deserves death, condemnation, and separation, and everyone owes a debt to God that he or she is utterly unable to pay apart from Christ. How should this truth transform the way you think about people you come in contact with each day? Why is it easy to lose sight of this truth?
- Look back through the list above and brainstorm ways you can share those truths with a lost world in simple-to-understand language.
- How is the grace of Christ both a one-time gift and a continuous gift?

- We behold the _____ glory _____ of Christ.
 - He is the _____ risen _____ Savior.
 - He is the _____ exalted _____ Lord.
 - He is the _____ coming _____ King.
 - Passion for the kingdom is fueled by passion for the _____ King _____.
- We proclaim the _____ gospel _____ of Christ.
 - In the power of Jesus' _____ presence _____.
 - He is _____ with _____ us.
 - He dwells _____ in _____ us.
 - He _____ enables _____ our obedience.
 - He _____ empowers _____ our proclamation.
 - In light of Jesus' _____ purpose _____.
 - We are _____ worshipers _____.
 - We are _____ witnesses _____.
 - In obedience to Jesus' _____ plan _____.
 - Old Testament: God's blessing _____ promised _____ for all nations.
 - New Testament: God's gospel _____ preached _____ to all nations.

Discussion . . .

- Read Luke 24:3. How does this verse affect how we understand everything that happened before it?
- Why do beholding the glory of Christ and proclaiming the gospel of Christ always go hand in hand?

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- Read Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:6-11. How did knowing Christ will return affect the disciples?
- When did the disciples “receive power”? (Acts 1:8)
- Describe the disciples before they received the Holy Spirit and after they received Him.

Application . . .

- Describe the role of a witness in a courtroom trial.
- If we are redeemed for the purpose of speaking the gospel, how is the idea of simply “witnessing with your life” not enough?
- Have you ever fallen into the trap of believing your life alone without words is enough? If so, why do you think that’s the case?
- Why does the Holy Spirit live inside of you? (*Make sure everyone understands His purpose of being a witness.*)
- Why is it significant that Jesus didn’t send the disciples out to do His work in their own strength?
- What was the role of prophets in the Old Testament?
- Read Acts 2:17-18. How does the realization that the Holy Spirit lives in you so that you will be a witness and a prophet change how you live your life?
- How does the fact that Jesus is coming again motivate the choices you make and the relationships you build?

As The Church At Brook Hills...

- 2010: The Radical Experiment
- 2011: The New Normal
 - Radical praying ...
 - Daily prayer needs.
 - Weekly prayer emphases.
 - Quarterly prayer and fasting celebrations.
 - Radical studying ...
 - As individuals.
 - As families and small groups.
 - As a faith family.
 - Radical giving ...
 - In our individual budgets.
 - In our church budget.
 - Radical going ...
 - Short-term...
 - 98% of our time spreading the gospel inside of Birmingham.
 - 2% of our time (1-3 weeks) spreading the gospel outside of Birmingham.

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- Mid-term...
 - Spending 2 months to 2 years spreading the gospel outside of Birmingham.
- Long-term...
 - Spending over 2 years spreading the gospel outside of Birmingham.
- Radical disciple-making...
 - Every small group in the church...
 - Experiencing the care of biblical community
 - Expanding the church through biblical mission
 - Every member of the church...
 - Multiplying the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Application . . .

- How has being radical become part of your “new normal” as a family or individual this past year?
- Why is “being radical” not strictly a personal decision but something we must do with other believers?
- Very specifically, how can we as a group become more radical in the way we:
 - Pray together?
 - Study God’s Word?
 - Give?
 - Go on mission?
 - Make disciples?
- What keeps us from being more radical in these areas? How can we overcome anything hindering us?
- Close your time in prayer together. Ask volunteers to pray for the specifics in the list above (prayer, study, giving, going, and making disciples), asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and unity in your group as you seek to do His will.

Close your time together by reminding everyone to go to www.radicalexperiment.org and look up this next week’s Bible readings in preparation for next week’s message.