



Redemption | Ephesians 1:7 | March 16, 2008

1. Why is Easter significant to you?

Leader Hints:

This is a break-the-ice kind of question. As you ask everyone in the group, this becomes a great opportunity to hear how people feel about Jesus and the importance that he plays in their hearts. This will probably be a super time of encouragement for one another.

2. How would you answer the question “Who am I?” or “What is the nature of people?”

Leader Hints:

With this question, you are trying to allow the group to get a clear sense of how God views people. The Bible should be our source for the answer. Psalm 8, which was written after sin entered the world, indicates how unique and special people are to God. Psalm 139 does the same. We also know that sin is a very real part of our lives as well; see Romans 5:12 and 3:23. The point is that we are valued by God, we are created in his image, but we also are in desperate need of him to rescue us.

3. The word “redemption” in Ephesians 1:7 is the picture of the slave in the marketplace being purchased and set free. According to this verse, how does Jesus do that for us?

Leader Hints:

“Through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.” The point is that Jesus, through his death on the cross, forgave our sins. How that happened is described in Colossians 2:13-14: “having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.” Jesus took all of my sin (past, present, and future) upon himself on the cross. This is what makes the words of Christ in John 19:30 so impactful: “It is finished.”

4. Ask the members of your group to explain in their own words how much the cross matters.

5. Why do you think that we find ourselves wanting to climb back into the “cage of sin”? How do we demonstrate this?

Leader Hints:

Earl told the Old Testament story of Hosea and Gomer and how she left him to return to a life of adultery and prostitution. Their marriage illustrates how Israel (and we) treated God the same way.

6. At this point, consider a time of prayers of thanksgiving together. Use sentence prayers to talk to God about how grateful you are for his demonstration of grace to you through the death of Jesus Christ.