

Week 3: Jesus, Our Redeemer

This week we will focus on how we love others like Jesus who redeems painful circumstances.

Supplies:

- Lemonade for optional opening activity
- Paper and pen/pencil for each person
- Music player
- Tissues for when the tears flow
- Copies of the family lesson (if you have parents of children in your group)

Optional Opening Activity as People Arrive: Serve lemonade and talk about redemption as God not simply removing the sourness of the world, but inserting his goodness in the midst of it, turning lemons into lemonade that can be shared to bless others.

Prayer: “Holy Spirit, we invite you to come and lead us into a deeper revelation of Jesus, our Redeemer. Help us to love each other as Christ has loved us.”

Remaining in the Word: Encourage people to have their Bible open as you read.

1. **Read Romans 8:24-28.** *“(If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) ²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will. ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”*

Discuss: According to this passage, how do we wait for full redemption with hope for breakthrough now? How does the Holy Spirit’s presence and activity turn lemons into lemonade in our lives?

2. **Read Jesus’ redemption assignment in Isaiah 61:1-4.** *“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. ² He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord’s favor has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies. ³ To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations” (NLT).*

Discuss: This passage shows that Jesus not only sets us free from prisons of darkness like death, fear, selfish-ambition, and destructive habits, he restores what has been lost because of sin and spiritual warfare. What are some of the ways Jesus redeems and restores us, according to this passage? How does Jesus work through the church to rebuild, repair, and revive what the enemy tried to destroy?

Worship: Play the song “Out of Hiding” by Steffany Gretzinger. (A link can be found on the worship playlist at the bottom of the Puzzle Piece 2 page at TillingMinistries.com.) As you listen with your eyes closed, picture Jesus singing this over you and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area in your life where you may be still sitting in prison instead of walking in freedom. (If you don’t have the song, simply pray.)

Activity: Hand out paper and pencils and allow a few minutes for people to write down anything the Holy Spirit showed them during the song. Then invite everyone to write down an area in their life that they still need Jesus to redeem (a broken relationship, financial loss, health issue, unfinished assignments or callings, etc.). Ask the Holy Spirit for a scripture promise to fill you with confident hope as you invite Jesus to redeem your situation. Be sensitive to any promptings of the Spirit, like reminders to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Share: Invite as many as would like to share to give a testimony of a time when Jesus redeemed a painful situation by bringing good fruit from it. After everyone has shared, ask if anyone wrote down on their paper something that needs to be redeemed that is similar to a testimony someone else shared. If so, invite the person who has experienced the fruit of redemption to pray for the person needing redemption with faith that God will redeem their situation, too.

Closing Prayer: Break into small groups of three for prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to help you intercede for one another to encounter Jesus’ redemption in every area of brokenness. Pray any scripture promises that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and declare by faith that God keeps his promises.

Optional Handout for Families: Print off the page below to hand out to any parents in your group.

Jesus, Our Redeemer, Family Object Lesson

Learn how Jesus redeems painful experiences, turning lemons into lemonade with his goodness.

Bible Verse: Read Romans 8:28. *"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* Ask children what they think this verse means.

Supplies: Pitcher, 6 lemons cut in half, 1 c. sugar, 4 c. cold water, ice cubes, cups.

Activity: As you add each ingredient, talk about what it represents.

- **Take turns squeezing lemons into the pitcher and invite children to taste the lemon juice.** Ask, "How does it taste?" Talk about how sin and selfishness cause sourness like lemons in our lives. Share examples like a child pushing another child down or taking their stuff and invite children to come up with their own examples of "lemons".
- **Add the sugar and take turns stirring until the sugar is completely dissolved.** Give everyone a little taste and ask, "How does it taste now?" God's solution to the sourness in the world caused by sin is to redeem it by adding the goodness of his presence. Jesus overcame our selfishness by demonstrating his selfless love on the cross. He laid down his life to pay for our sour sins so we could be forgiven and receive the sweet relief of God's grace. Then ask, "Is this lemonade yet? What's missing?"
- **Pour cold water into pitcher and read Romans 5:5: "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."** God pours his love into our hearts by giving us the Holy Spirit, just like we poured water into the pitcher, so we can love others the way Jesus loves us. Jesus sweetens our lives with God's goodness and pours his Spirit into us so that we can share his goodness with others.
- **Put ice cubes in pitcher and stir, then pour into cups.** As you drink your lemonade, talk as a family about ways you can love others the way Jesus loves us, showing kindness to those who are hurting. How can you share with others the good news of the lemonade God gives us through Jesus?

Additional activities for families with older children who have longer attention spans:

Worship: Play the song, "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury (on YouTube) and talk about how Jesus comes to help us when we're hurting because he cares about us.

Share: How does having someone with you when you get hurt bring you comfort? How can we bring comfort to others the way Jesus comforts us with his presence when we're hurting?

Pray: Ask Jesus to redeem any pain in your family or the lives of those you know, turning lemons into lemonade.

Coming Soon: Check the TillingMinistries.com "Discipleship Book" page for additional resources and activities you can do with your children to teach them about Jesus as their Redeemer.