

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 27, 2012

Passage: Romans 3:24-25a

Memory Passage: Romans 3:24-25a

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 3:21-23 & Rom. 11.** By way of reminder, write down your definition of “justify.” What have you learned so far about the ways men & women will *not* be justified? Why will they not be able to be justified in these ways?
- (b) What does the conjunction “and” tell you about the connection between verse 23 & 24? What other words do you see in vs. 24-25a that are/will be important for you to consider as you contemplate the flow of Paul’s argument?
- (c) How are men & women justified according to v. 24? What do the prepositions “by” and “through” teach us about justification? What is the difference between “grace” and “gift?”
- (d) Spend some time memorizing 3:24. As you do, focus your attention on each word, meditating upon it and its meaning.
- (e) *Family:* **Read Rom. 3:24-25a.** Ask, “Do you recognize any of the words in these verses from our previous study?” (They should recognize at least “justified.”) Review your definition of what it means to justify or be justified (to be declared righteous, one who has been legally declared righteous). Now ask, “What more do we learn about being justified in v. 24?” (Sinners are justified by grace, as a gift, and through redemption in Christ Jesus). Ask, “What does the word, ‘grace’ mean?” Then teach them, using your white board, a definition of grace using this acronym: God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 3:21-24a.** What does “redemption” mean? A quick search of the ESV shows that the words redeem, redeemer, redeemed, or redemption occur 160 in the Bible! In the OT there are 3 Hebrew words that express the concept of redemption: *padah*, *ga’al*, and *kapar*, and all of these are translated to the Greek with *luo*, which means “to loose.” We are going to spend the rest of this week looking at this important doctrine.
- (b) **Read Ex. 13:1-2, 11-16, 21:28-32, 34:19-20 & Num. 18:8-18.** *Padah* is used when an animal substitutes (redeems) another animal or a person. It involves either a price being paid or a substitution being made, or the one requiring redemption must be killed. This is the word used in Ex. 13:13, 15, & 34:20. What does “consecrate” (13:2) mean? What is to be consecrated and why?
- (c) In 13:11-16, what was different about the way firstborn donkeys & human males were to be treated compared to all the other firstborn animals? What was to be substituted, or offered as redemption, for these firstborn lives?
- (d) Explain the situation found in Ex. 21:28-32 and the legal requirements surrounding this situation, including any redemption requirements.
- (e) In Num. 18, to whom does the recurring “you” & “yours” refer? What is different about the way the firstborn of unclean animals and humans are to be treated? Why this difference? What is the price of redemption?
- (f) *Family:* **Read Rom. 3:21-24**, and then ask, “What does the word, ‘redemption’ mean?” Write down on your white board any answers given. Then **Read Ex. 6:1-8** and discuss the promises made by God to His people (“I will bring you out . . . deliver you . . . redeem you . . . bring you into the land . . . give it to you for a possession”), & why He made them (“I have remembered my covenant”). Then tell the story of the 10th plague, God’s commands to His people for the salvation of their firstborn, and the exodus from Egypt of God’s people (Ex. 11-12) while your family draws illustrations of these events. Then have them share their drawings as they retell the story back to you and the rest of your family.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Lev. 25:23-28, 47-55, & Ruth 1-4.** The 2nd OT term we find explaining the concept of redemption is *ga’al*. It is used in the context of a family’s property rights and the responsibilities of the next of kin, or kinsman redeemer (*go’el*). Summarize the situations described in Lev. 25: 23-28 & 47-55.
- (b) What reasons are given for the giving of these laws (25:23, 55)? What do these laws reveal about the character of God and His relationship with His people?
- (c) The words redeem, redeemer, & redemption appears 18 times in Ruth 3 & 4. The book of Ruth combines the idea of a kinsman redeemer with Levirate marriage (from the Latin, *levir*, “husband’s brother”), which is the practice of a woman whose husband dies prior to fathering children marrying her dead husband’s brother in order to be provided an heir to her deceased husband’s estate. As you read the story of Ruth & Boaz, write down what you learn about the concept of redemption. Summarize & explain the blessings that came to Ruth & Naomi, the community, & the nation (4:11-17).

(d) *Family*: **Read Rom. 3:21-24**, and point out the word “redemption,” and remind them of last night’s study. Now tell a story (if this has happened to you or someone else in your family, tell your own story and make it more personal) about someone who parks their car in an illegal parking place, gets towed, and then has to pay a price to have their vehicle released. Explain that this price that was paid is one of the Biblical meanings of the word “redeem” found in Scripture (you might need to explain that redeem, redemption, & redeemer are all different forms of the same word). Then **Read Num. 18:15-16** to see an example of a price paid for redemption. Also teach that sometimes the life of an animal was given as a substitute (as in Ex. 13:13), and all of this redemption was required because God claimed the lives of the firstborn of both men and animals as holy (consecrated) unto Himself. It reminded God’s people of His gracious provision of sparing their firstborn during the 10th plague by passing over the homes of those who obeyed God (see Ex. 13:13-15).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 16 & Heb. 9:6-14**. The 3rd Hebrew term used to explain the OT concept of redemption is *kapar*, which means “to cover.” It is the word used in “Yom Kippur,” or Day of Atonement. We will examine this concept more closely in coming weeks, but today we will focus on one aspect of this word: redemption.

(b) Describe the activities that took place on the Day of Atonement. Why was this day needed & what did it accomplish?

(c) How does Hebrews 9:6-14 inform us of the ultimate true meaning of the Day of Atonement described and instituted in Lev. 16? What does Hebrews tell us the better sacrifice of Jesus secures on behalf of all those who will believe in Him? How did He secure it, and why is His offering better than the OT sacrifices?

(d) Why do you need redemption? From what must you be redeemed and why? How often must you be redeemed, and why can you not provide this redemption for yourself?

(e) *Family*: Spend some time prior to this session reading Lev. 16 and becoming familiar with the rituals God commanded His people to do on the Day of Atonement. Then, during your lesson, combine summarizing and reading as you explain this chapter, including why this Day was needed & what it accomplished. Then **Read Heb. 9:6-14** and explain how Christ’s sacrifice secured for us a redemption (He paid the price of death so that we could be freed from being in bondage to the penalty and power of sin).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Cor. 1:30, Gal. 3:13-14, 4:4-7, Eph. 1:7-10, Col. 1:13-14, Titus 2:11-14, & Rom. 3:24**. As you read each passage, make notes that will help you answer this question: What is meant by the phrase, “redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24)? By now you should have a full understanding of the different nuances of the idea of redemption, so seeing how Christ provides complete redemption for His people should be a, “Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus!” kind of study!

(b) *Family*: Lead your family through (a) above, using your white board to help you keep track of what you learn. It will also be helpful for you to summarize the NT teaching on redemption in one or two phrases that can be remembered by your family.

DATE: May 27, 2012

PASSAGE: Romans 3:24-25a

Our Righteous God Who Justifies (Part II)

In Romans 3:21-26 Paul reveals two realities about the righteousness of God as he explains how believers are justified by faith in Jesus.