

# WEEK 6 - Redemption - The Turning Point

## Fall Focus 2024 // Canopy Guide

### The Big Story

#### CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.

- Think about the movies you've seen, what scene depicts redemption most vividly?
- Talk about the word "redemption." What does that word mean to you?

#### VIDEO INTRO | STUDY GUIDE

As wonderful and amazing as the life of Jesus is - God actually becoming flesh and living among us! - there was much more involved in God's plan for the world and human history. Jesus came to reveal the Father, show us what it means to be truly human, and to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). After millennia of time and centuries with Old Testament Law and the continuing failure to live up to perfect standards, God sent forth his Son to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

The coming of Jesus was the climactic event in the history of the world and of human relations, but it culminated in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Though our annual calendar is established in an attempt to identify the year of his birth, the critical incident for all history and every human was Jesus' death and subsequent resurrection. That was what his early followers risked and sacrificed their lives to proclaim, and the impact of the message was that Jesus actually defeated death.

Christian scholars have struggled for centuries to explain exactly how Jesus' death atones for our sins: the perfect, sinless One sacrificed for the sinful and unworthy many. Even so, we can place our hope in this truth: *"He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, and by his bruises we are healed"* - (Isaiah 53:5). As this message was proclaimed, the confirming evidence of its truth was affirmed by God's raising Jesus from the dead (cf. Acts 2, 13, 17, et al).

The transforming effect of this risen Savior has impacted world history and countless individual lives - from those who spent time following him during his ministry and passion, to others like Saul of Tarsus who became the Apostle Paul, to followers through

history and even today who have entered a whole new life in Christ. Jesus said following him into this new life is like being born again (John 3:5). It is clear he did not intend that confessing belief in him and taking his name should just be adding another membership to our resume or obituary. Accepting Jesus as Lord is life-changing, both in the sense of forgiveness of sin and as a reorientation of life. He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to comfort, encourage, and guide us - helping us remember and understand what he said and did, but also helping us to live his lifestyle daily. And the import and effect of his death and resurrection are affirmed and underscored every time we gather as Christians around the Lord's Table.

Affirming Jesus as Lord and receiving his Spirit as Helper and Advocate is more significant as a change of status and identity than any other life-changing event: birth, adoption, marriage, retirement, and even death. Now, for Christians, all of life is lived in light of Jesus' lordship and lifestyle. Our imperfect efforts are aided and abetted by his Spirit, but we are now also part of the Body of Christ, which is his Church, the living evidence of his presence among us and the encouraging fellowship of fellow followers.

There is more to come - in our lifetime and for all eternity, but God has brought this plan to the point where we can see where it can and should go from here. That which (and who) was lost has been redeemed. And that work of redemption and reconciliation is ongoing.

### **Scripture to Read**

- John 3:3-17
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 2:36-42
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16

### **Scripture to Memorize**

- Romans 5:8 or Ephesians 2:8-9

### **Deeper Discussion Questions**

1. What evidence do you see in the Old Testament that God was moving toward the Incarnation, and even to Death and Resurrection?
2. How would you explain to someone what Jesus has done for us?
3. What can the Church do to help people see, and make, the radical commitment to follow Jesus?
4. Is it harder or easier to contemplate the resurrection of Jesus when a loved one dies?

## PRAYER

Consider with refreshed eyes how this story of redemption shifts the course and story of humanity. Make sure to claim some time as a group each week to pray specifically for each other.

## EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH

1. Bible Project Video on Atonement/Sacrifice  
▶ [How God Deals With Evil Without Destroying Humanity](#)
2. This Bible Project video was linked on week 3, but if you missed it then, it's about 5 minutes long & connects the fall with the arrival of Jesus and his role in crushing the serpent and the power the resurrection holds to redeem us from sin.  
▶ [This Is the Hope For Ending the Evil that Affects Your Life](#)
3. Article by Bob Fyall on the meaning of Isaiah 53:5 -  
<https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-does-isaiah-535-mean/>