

in all things

## PRE-GATHERING BIBLE STUDY #3

# GOD REDEEMS IN THE STORY OF ALL THINGS

## MATERIALS:

- Bibles (participants will be asked to write in their Bibles)
- Pens/Pencils
- Dodgeballs (and space to play)
- 1 Participant Guide per student

## GOALS:

1. This study will show participants how God continually redeems His people and reveals His grace and forgiveness repeatedly in the Bible. (We call repeating big ideas like these, “Biblical Themes.”)
2. Through reading and re-reading the Scriptures, this study will help participants see how God redeems His people to reveal who God is and how He interacts with humanity. Ultimately, our redemption comes through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. Jesus’ death and resurrection brings us forgiveness to become children of God.

**LEADER NOTE:** *In the story of all things, God repeatedly buys back or redeems his people. We see this especially in God’s act of freeing of His people from slavery, the Exodus (as we will dig into today), as well as in the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.*

\*\*Before introducing this next study, take some time to recap what you and your group have learned from reading and re-reading the stories from the first Pre-Gathering Bible study. The hope is that all of these Bible studies connect together and help participants start piecing together various parts of the story of all things.\*\*

## INTRODUCTION:

### Game— Jailbreak Dodgeball

1. Split your group into two teams to play a game of dodgeball.
2. As team members get “out”, have them line up on the side of the court. When a player on their team either a) catches a ball or b) gets a player on the opposite team out, the first player in line can come back into the game.
3. As the leader, periodically call out a “JAILBREAK” during the game where all “players” who are “out” can return to the game.
4. Spend about 10-15 minutes playing and then return to your meeting space.

**ASK:** How many times did you get out during the game? How many times were you able to get back into the game?

**ASK:** How did it feel when you were able to get a teammate back into the game? How did it feel when you were allowed to be back in the game?

**ASK:** How would you define redemption?

**LEADER NOTE:** The dictionary defines redemption as “the action of saving or being saved” or “the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt”. This definition will help us better understand the biblical theme of redemption.

## LESSON

**SAY:** When you were able to get back in the game, you were freed from being “out.” You were redeemed by either a teammate or myself. The theme of redemption is used so many times throughout the Bible. Let’s look at an example together:

Read **Genesis 37** and **Genesis 50:15-21**.

1. What happened to Joseph?
2. Where do you see redemption in the story of Joseph?
3. What do these verses reveal about God’s character?

**LEADER NOTE:** After reading **Genesis 37**, spend a few minutes summarizing what happens between chapters 37 and 50. If you have members of your group who know the story well, have them share with the rest of the group. The basics of the story include Joseph sold into slavery, ascending to a position of authority in Egypt, being wrongly accused, resulting in his imprisonment. Joseph’s gift of interpreting dreams is used by God to spare Egypt from a deadly famine and his own family from death.

**SAY:** The biblical theme of redemption shows us exactly who God is. God loves His people so much that He will do anything to bring them back from sin. Joseph went from being a slave to working under Pharaoh. He was redeemed as a part of God’s plan to save many. Peter was redeemed after denying Jesus three times so that he could continue sharing the Gospel message. One more major story of redemption in the Bible is the story of the Exodus.

**LEADER NOTE:** This would be a great time to split students into their family groups for the Gathering to continue building those relationships with their adult leaders. A goal to have for the last Pre-Gathering Bible study is to have students facilitate these conversations in their family groups. If you have not already identified a student leader for the group, take time prior to this Bible Study to encourage and equip them as a leader for their peers.

**SAY:** Our icon for the biblical theme of redemption is chains breaking. As you read this next story of the Exodus, draw an image of chains breaking to remind you of how God works through redemption.



**LEADER NOTE:** For each of the Pre-Gathering Bible studies, there will be a new icon representing that biblical theme. It is our goal for students to use the different icons throughout their Bible to see these themes in the Story of All Things. By the end of the Gathering, they will have a total of seven icons to help them see the Story of All Things.

Have each group read **Exodus 12:21-42**. As they are reading the passage, have students write down or draw key words, phrases, or ideas. Each group will answer these questions:

1. Who is being redeemed in the story of the Exodus?
2. What are they being redeemed from?
3. What does their redemption show us about God's character?
4. How do we still see God's redemption today?

Bring all groups back together and work through the questions as a large group, making sure each group has the opportunity to share.

End by reading **Exodus 6:6** together.

## APPLICATION:

**SAY: God redeemed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He continues to redeem His people, even to this day. We are all slaves to sin, but because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are freed from our sin.**

Read Ephesians 1:7-8 to the group.

**SAY: The blood of Jesus was the payment for our freedom. Because of our sin, we deserve the punishment. Instead, Jesus took that punishment upon himself and purchased us back from sin, death, and the devil through His death on the cross and resurrection. Jesus gives us FREEDOM—freedom to live as His people, to be close to God even when you don't feel like you deserve it, free to share that amazing truth with others!**

Read Colossians 1:13-14.

**SAY: Our forgiveness comes only through Jesus. It is nothing that we can do on our own to be redeemed. Rather it is Jesus who delivers us from darkness. There is nothing for us to prove because it's already been done! Isn't it awesome that forgiveness has NOTHING to do with us and EVERYTHING to do with Jesus?!**

## CALL TO ACTION:

- Be on the lookout for some examples of redemption in our world. Maybe it is in the news, in movies or TV, or your own personal life! Especially look for examples of redemption in other scripture passages, hymns, songs, etc. Be ready to share one example the next time your group gets together.
- Between now and the next Pre-Gathering Bible Study, read 2 Samuel 12 at least twice and think about these questions. If possible, find a time to read this passage with someone else in your church.
  1. Where do you see redemption in the story of David?
  2. What does David's redemption show us about God's character?

**LEADER NOTE: The reason that we chose the story of David for your students to read for the Call to Action is to set up the Biblical theme of God's presence in the next Pre-Gathering Bible study.**