



Jesus the Redeemer

OBJECTIVE

To help groups experience Jesus as the one who bought them back from the grave and won salvation through his innocent sufferings and death.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

Christ died to buy us back—redeem us—from death. So what? What does this mean to a teen who might be questioning his/her self-worth and value? Jesus' death on the cross is not just an old story or a scene in a movie. Jesus died for you. Jesus knows you and loves you. He took your sins to the cross and you're a precious part of God's plan. Will you live for him? So now what?

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Colossians 1:13-14, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink AC05.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Scan Luther's explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. From what did Luther say Jesus redeemed you? Why did he redeem you? Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Who are your best friends? Would you ever take a punishment for them if they were in trouble? Why or why not? Affirm all thoughtful answers.

2. Who is someone you would risk death to save? Why would you do such a thing? Affirm all thoughtful answers. You'd do it out of a deep love for that other person. Parents would take a bullet for their kids because they love them so deeply.

3. Have you ever been rescued from a punishment you deserved? If so, how did you thank the rescuer? Affirm all thoughtful answers.

4. How might you show your thanks to Jesus for rescuing you? Affirm all thoughtful answers, but look for responses more than just "go to church" and "be good."

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Forgiveness: The act of being forgiven and having your "slate wiped clean."

Ransom: The payment demanded for the release of something.

Redeem: To save from a state of sinfulness and its consequences. Christ is our Redeemer. He died on the cross to save us from sin, death and the devil.

Rescue: To save from a dangerous and life-threatening situation.

Salvation: Deliverance from the power or penalty of sin.

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: Plan for your small group to help serve communion during worship. Involve them in all aspects—from preparation to clean up. If time allows set aside an evening where they can bake the bread. Another possibility is to go with the pastor or home communion teams when they bring communion to nursing homes, hospitals or people who are home-bound.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

