

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups that will enable people to begin moving from being drawn to God to a life that is being deepened by God. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

So many of us can relate to the middle school boy or girl who is always the last person picked, and usually they aren't even picked. They just end up on the team by default. But the message of the cross is not only that Jesus came to save sinners, but that he chose us in order to redeem us. Salvation gives us victory over sin, but redemption goes even further and gives us value. Let this truth sink into your soul: we have been chosen and we have been redeemed! This year, Pastor Paul took Easter Sunday and talked about the 2 things the cross does in our lives:

1. **The cross brings us to a common place:** Too often we see the world as the "good" church people and the "bad" unchurched people, and when that happens, the cross becomes a symbol that divides us. But the cross brings each of us to a common place: we are all sinners in need of salvation, and Jesus is that savior. We aren't people in need of help, but prisoners in need of a rescue, and the good news is that, on the cross, Jesus rescued us and gave us victory over sin!
2. **The cross offers us uncommon grace:** But that wasn't all that happened at the cross. Yes, we needed to be saved from our sins, but we also needed something else: a home and a family. The uncommon grace that God extended to us at the cross was the redemption that gives us value. We were not only sinners in need of salvation, but orphans in need of redemption, and the great news of the gospel is that, on the cross, Jesus redeemed us and gave us value in this life! He chose us and placed value in us because he paid everything for us!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What was one helpful, eye-opening, or troubling insight or principle from this week's message?
- Romans 5:6 describes us as "powerless" and "ungodly" before Jesus saved us through his death on the cross. Talk through the implications of those terms. Did you see yourself that way before you chose to follow Jesus? What about the people you're sharing Jesus with right now?
- Why don't we like to be powerless?
- Pastor Paul talked about value being determined by what someone is willing to pay for it. Even though our value should come from knowing Jesus paid everything for us, what are some things that many of us often get our value from?
- Read John 15:16. How powerful is it to be chosen by Jesus? What implications does simply knowing that HE WANTS US have on your daily life?