

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Romans 3:21–26



Week of: December 1, 2025



Message Title: The Gift of Redemption



Speaker: Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

Think back to a memorable gift you received at Christmas, as a child or as an adult. What was the gift, and why did it feel so meaningful at the time? Looking back now, how has your sense of what is truly valuable changed? If you like, you can also share a funny “white elephant” or bad gift story, and talk about why the exchange felt like a bad trade.

2. READ TOGETHER

Have someone from your group read aloud Romans 3:21–26. If time allows, also read Romans 5:1–2.

Ask: How do these verses describe our problem, God’s solution in Christ, and why this gift matters today?

3. GROUP DISCUSSION (30–40 MINS)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *(Use the most helpful questions for your group.)*

1. In verses 21–23, Paul says that **all** have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. Where do you see this most clearly in yourself, and why is it important to acknowledge it honestly?
2. Ps. Lenard reminded us that sin is not just breaking rules, but exchanging God’s glory for lesser things. What are you most tempted to put in God’s place, and how do you see that it cannot satisfy?
3. Verse 24 says we are **“justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”** How would you explain redemption in simple terms, and why must it be received rather than earned?

4. Ps. Lenard said the cost of this gift is **Jesus' precious blood**. God put Jesus forward as a **propitiation**, the sacrifice who bears the wrath that we deserve. How does the idea of Jesus taking God's righteous anger for you personally affect the way you see the cross, and the way you see your own sin?
5. Romans 3:25–26 shows that God is both **just** and the **justifier** of those who trust in Jesus. How does this help you rest in forgiveness instead of feeling like God "lowered the bar" for you?
6. Romans 5:1–2 says redemption gives us peace with God, access to grace, and hope of glory. Which of these is hardest for you to believe on a daily basis, and which one encourages you most?
7. We often drift back into performance mode, trying to prove ourselves before God and others. Where do you notice this in your life, and what would it look like to live more freely as a redeemed person?
8. Ps. Lenard called us to respond with **faith, thanksgiving, and proclamation**. Where do you need to trust Jesus more deeply, and who in your life might need to hear about this gift?
9. Bethel's mission is to proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God. When we live as people who know we were spiritually bankrupt and could not save ourselves and have been freely redeemed at the cost of Jesus' blood, we proclaim that salvation belongs to the Lord, not to us. Honest confession of sin, deep joy in God's mercy, and courage to talk about the cross all show a watching world that Jesus is our only hope and our greatest treasure. Do you agree? Why or why not? How can a clearer grasp of redemption shape both our evangelism to those who do not know Christ and our discipleship of believers who are stuck in guilt, pride, or self-reliance?
10. How do our core values help us live as a redeemed people rather than slipping back into self salvation?
Consider a few examples, then add your own:
Worship – Singing and praying about the cross and the blood of Christ keeps our focus on what Jesus has done, not what we do.

Bible knowledge – Knowing passages like Romans 3 and Romans 5 gives us solid truth to combat shame, pride, and confusion about the gospel.

Fellowship – Walking closely with other believers lets us confess sin, remind one another of grace, and refuse to pretend we have it all together.

Prayer – Coming freely and often to God in prayer helps us practice our access to the Father that Jesus has purchased for us.

Service, evangelism, missions, giving – Serving and giving out of gratitude, not guilt, shows that we are already accepted in Christ and now want others, near and far, to know this Redeemer too.

Which value do you most need to lean into this week in order to live more fully as someone who has been redeemed?

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Thank and trust the God who redeems

Prompt:

Thank God for the gift of redemption and the costly sacrifice of Jesus that makes us right with him. Confess where you have minimized sin, relied on your own performance, or taken this gift for granted. Ask the Spirit to help you rest in the peace you now have with God, confidently draw near to him because Christ has opened the way, and live with hope in the future he has secured. Pray for those in your group and in your lives who still trust in themselves rather than in Jesus, asking God to open doors to share the hope of redemption and to give boldness and clarity when those moments come.