

# ILLUMINATE

## Sermon Bible Study Series

**Title:** Redemption

**Primary Texts:** Genesis 4:7; Colossians 1:13-14; 3:1-14

**Expanded Reading:** John 8:34-35; Romans 7:18-20; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 18-21

**Big Idea:** *God has acted in Christ, through the cross, to justify humanity. Because of Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection, those who put their faith in Christ are made/declared righteous.*

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**Engage** *Have you ever lost, sold, or given something away that you wish you could get back? What was it? Why would you like it back?*

This question shouldn't take too much time, but should open people to conversation. Validate people's stories and gently invite responses.

***Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon***

## Learn

1. Read Genesis 4:7; John 8:34-35; Romans 7:18-20. After reading these texts, discuss the way in which sin is described. How, or where, have you seen sin's enslaving power at work in humanity?

2. In the ancient world, "*redemption*" was primarily an economic word. To *redeem* was to buy back something that had been sold, to exchange something that was yours for something that belonged to another, or, to pay a price to set someone free. The word "*redemption*" implies that something, or someone, has been lost, sold, or imprisoned, and that this something (or someone) needs to be found, bought, or released.

Read Ephesians 1:7 and 1 Peter 1:18-20; how does the cross factor into our redemption?

3. In turning away from God, all of us are held captive to sin's enslaving power, but the good news is that at the cross, God, in Christ, has broken the power of sin—He paid the price for our ransom; we have been forgiven and set free.

Discuss the the question Mark asked in his sermon: "*if the death of Jesus has broken sin's enslaving power, why do so many Christians remain captive?*"

4. How does the Christian walk in the freedom Christ won at the cross? Read Galatians 5:1, 13-25.

**Deepen*****What questions did you want to ask when listening to the sermon?***

Leaders, allow people to wrestle with the text. Don't feel like you need to have all the answers, but in your preparation think about the questions that will arise and be prepared to point toward Jesus and the Scriptures for answers.

***What Scripture passages might inform these unanswered questions?*****Live**

Nearly everyone feels feel bound, captive, or enslaved in some part of their life? Whether it's from fear, an addiction, a wound/event from the past, or bitterness that has a hold on us, we all long for a greater measure of freedom.

Have the group share where they long to experience greater freedom and then pray for one another.