



April 7- John 21:15-19

1. Tell of any experience you have had with sheep.
2. Why does Jesus ask Peter if he loves him three times?
3. What does it mean for Jesus to commission Peter to “feed my lambs” and “take care of my sheep”?
4. What qualities are necessary for shepherding and caring for God’s people, and how do these qualities relate to Peter’s role as a leader in the Christian community?
5. What significance do you see in Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s future martyrdom?
6. What lessons can we learn from Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s future suffering and martyrdom?
7. How does Peter’s restoration in this passage reflect themes of forgiveness and redemption?
8. How can we apply the lessons from this passage to our own lives and relationships with others?

April 14- Genesis 1:26-27, 3:1-5

1. What is a story that gets told about you by family or friends?
2. What does Genesis 1:26-27 reveal about human dignity?
3. How does the concept of being created in God's image influence our understanding of self-worth and dignity?
4. In what ways does the idea of being made in God's image shape our relationships with others?
5. How does Genesis 3:1-5 challenge or distort our understanding of identity?
6. What are some contemporary examples of challenges to human identity similar to those presented in Genesis 3:1-5?
7. How can understanding our identity as outlined in Genesis 1:26-27 help us navigate the complexities of modern identity issues?
8. Read John 1:12, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 2:10, and 1 Thessalonians 1:4. What do these passages say about who you are as a follower of Jesus?

April 21- Ephesians 1:1-2

The very first word that Paul uses to describe the people he is writing to is “Saints”. A saint isn’t a title reserved for former popes or the super religious. Every single Christian is a saint.

A saint is someone who has been made holy through faith in Jesus Christ and is set apart for God’s use.

1. If you were to ask the average person on the street to name someone who is a saint, what would they say?

2. According to these greetings, what is a saint?

Romans 1:7-

1 Corinthians 1:2-

2 Corinthians 1:1

Colossians 1:2

3. According to these verses, where does our holiness come from?

1 Peter 2:9-

Philippians 3:9-

4. Why do people still try to get to heaven using their own good works or attempts at holiness?

5. Why are good works not enough to make us holy?

6. How is it possible for us to still have a sin nature and yet be considered completely holy and righteous?

7. What happens when Satan tries to condemn us? (Romans 8:33-34)

Do we ever stop being holy?

8. In the Old Testament the people of God were given a huge list of rules- no eating pork, no mixed fabrics, no eating dairy and meat together, no shaving with a razor, etc. Why did God give them such weird rules to live by? (Leviticus 20:26)

9. Read 2 Timothy 2:19-21. How and why are we set apart?

10. What have Christians been set apart from? What have Christians been set apart for?

Application questions to consider

Even though it's clear from the Bible that we are holy, why don't we feel very holy?

"Your sin no longer highlights how bad you are; instead, your sin highlights how gracious God is." Explain this statement.

Does that mean we should sin more so that God's grace would increase?

What is our motivation for avoiding sin?

What's the difference between how a saint views their sin and how a sinner views their sin?

What are some things that God sets us apart for? What has God set you apart for?

Praise God for the fact that He doesn't see our sin, but sees us through Jesus' righteousness. Thank God for choosing you, saving you, and setting you apart for good things.

April 28- Ephesians 1:3-6

God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. We act like we are so poor, when we have already been given everything we need. Our blessings are not a future promise, but a present reality.

1. What are some of the greatest earthly blessings in your life?
2. What would you say is the difference between a blessing and good luck?
3. What does “blessed” mean in the following verses?
Genesis 1:22- Blessed means _____
Deuteronomy 33:29- Blessed means _____
Nehemiah 8:6- Blessed means _____
4. Read Job 1:1-3- How had God blessed Job?
5. Read Job 1:6-8- Why does God point out Job to Satan?
6. Read Job 1:9-11- Why does Satan think Job honors God?
7. Read Job 1:12-19- Why does God allow Satan to harm Job? What is Satan trying to prove? What is God trying to prove?
8. Read Job 1:20-22- What was Job’s response? How was it that Job could still praise God? How does Job rationalize his loss?
9. Satan eventually takes Job’s family, money, and health. All of his earthly blessings were gone. What was job’s motivation for continuing to honor God?
10. Was Job still blessed by God even during all his hardships? What was the nature of God’s blessing?
11. Why did God use this guy to prove His point?
12. Paul tells us that we are chosen and predestined. Why is that a blessing?
13. How do we reconcile the sovereign election of God with human free will?
14. Why does God choose us?

Application questions to consider.

How does knowing that we are people who have been blessed with every spiritual blessing change the way we live?

Other than His choosing and adopting us, what are some other spiritual blessings that we can give God praise for?

What spiritual blessing do you find the most comforting?

Why do so many Christians feel like they are not blessed?

Why does God bless us?

Praise God for blessing us with everything we need. Praise Him for the things we have and the things we don't have. Praise Him for the hard times that build perseverance. Praise Him for choosing us to be adopted as His children!

May 5- Ephesians 1:7-10

We have been redeemed from a life of sin and suffering, by the blood of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God!

Introduction

Can you think of a movie or book that has a story of redemption? (Someone who starts out bad and becomes good; someone who is trapped who finds freedom; someone who tries to run from their past but eventually confronts it and overcomes?)

In that story what was the bad thing that the person is redeemed from?

What was the key thing that brought about their redemption?

What was their life like after they had been redeemed?

Understanding

Much of the Old Testament is made up of accounts of God redeeming His people. These stories all lead up to the ultimate act of redemption through Jesus.

Read Deuteronomy 7:7-11- The Exodus

What were the people of God redeemed from?

What were they redeemed by?

What were they redeemed for?

What does redemption teach us about our own human ability?

What does redemption teach us about our dependency on God?

What does redemption teach us about our responsibility to God?

Going Deeper

Read the following passages and answer...

We are saved from...?

We are saved by...?

We are saved for...?

Romans 4:25, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 John 4:9-10

Some liberal theologians have rejected the idea of redemption through the shed blood of Jesus. They prefer to think of Jesus' life as merely an example of obedience or an expression of God's love. Why is it important to understand that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ?

Read Matthew 26:27-28

According to Jesus, what is the source of our redemption?

Why did God use such a painful, gory, ugly method?

Application questions to consider:

When Paul says that we have redemption from our transgressions there is a present and future application...

How does our redemption from sin affect our eternal state?

How does our redemption from sin affect our present state?

What are some of the ways in which God helps to free us from our present struggles?

What does someone who has been redeemed from anger look like?

What does someone who has been redeemed from drugs look like?

What does someone who has been redeemed from fear look like?

Is there a particular area of sin in your life that still needs to be redeemed? What will it look like when you have been completely set free?

God, we thank you for redeeming us from our slavery to sin! We praise you that we have been purchased, ransomed, and set free! Thank you that heaven awaits us. We pray for every area of our lives that needs to be made new. Redeem us from every temptation, struggle, and sin. May our lives bring you the glory that you deserve!

