



iAm

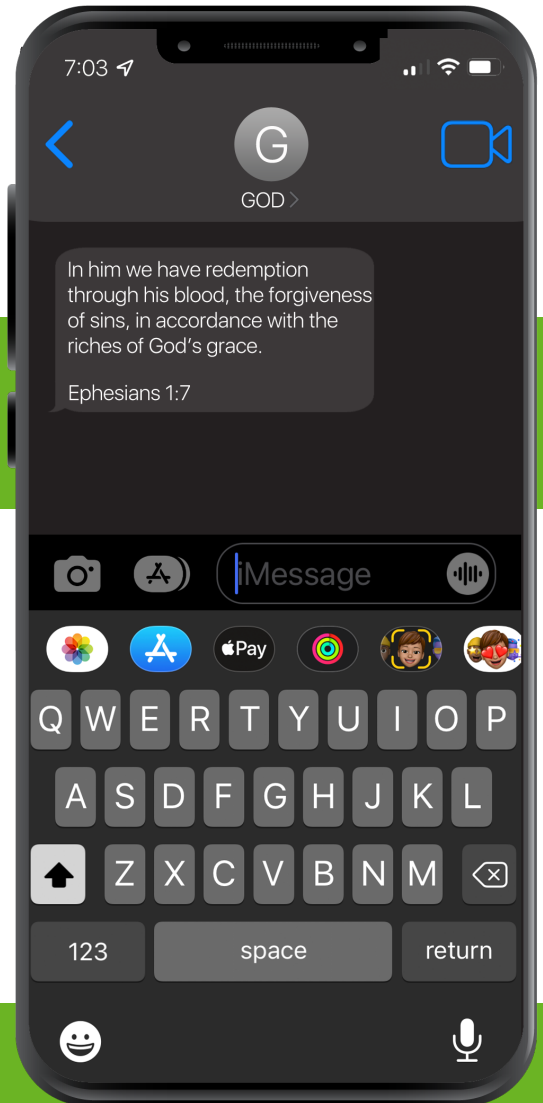
redeemed

For the Team

Jesus paid our debts to God on the cross. He did it willingly, and lovingly. With Jesus, we are not held ransom. We are free. So walk joyfully in that freedom this week as you work with your agents. Remind them they are not held captive by their sin, but they are free indeed. And with that freedom, they can do amazing things. They can love God's creation the way Jesus did, and show the world they're redeemed too.

For the Special Agents

This week, we'll play 9 Square in the Air (or The Floor is Lava, if you don't have the equipment for 9 Square). Use your Special Agents to help "save" the agents before they get out during 9 square, or during The Floor is Lava, let the Special Agents help the agents get from safe place to safe place. Let them give a helping hand, to redeem the players as they move through the game. Show them all how much easier the game is with this helping hand, and remind them how Jesus paid a debt we could never hope to pay. And for that we are grateful!



C larity

God had a plan from the very beginning. Jesus is our ultimate redeemer. He paid for our sins on the cross, forever redeeming us from the debt we owed to God. John 3:16 clearly explains why this redemption was necessary: Love. God loves us and wants to be with us. But we sinned, and our sin separated us from God. So, he rescued us. He made a way. He redeemed us through Jesus.

I nsight

Imagine how the disciples felt after Jesus went back to heaven, and they were left with the great commission. They're hopes were confirmed. He is the messiah. They are redeemed. It's no wonder the church grew in leaps and bounds during that time period. They'd seen miracles with their own eyes. They'd been saved from sin and death. And they knew how others could be saved too. Why wouldn't they tell the world?

A pplication

Walking in the redemption of Jesus means being grateful for His sacrifice every day. It means showing people God's love no matter what. It means remembering you didn't earn it, and neither did that person who cut you off in line. It means loving everyone like Jesus.

IRL: In Real Life

The teacher stood in front of her sixth grade English class frowning. They were her toughest class of the day. They were rowdy, loud, and uncaring. That's not to say all of them were like that, but the handful who wanted to learn were always drowned out by the ones that didn't. The ones that caused a commotion every day.

She'd tried everything she could think of to reach them, and as they stared at each other on the last day, the day they were to take their final exam, she knew most of the class would fail. They hadn't done the work all year long.

A spit ball sailed past her ear and landed on the white board behind her. She ignored it.

"Today, I must say, your transgressions have been great in my class."

"Transgressions?" One of the students asked.

"Mistakes," another student filled in.

"Sins," someone else offered.

"Indeed," the teacher continued. "I'm afraid most of you will fail my class."

A great cry rose in her class, but she knew it was coming. She waited patiently for it to die down.

"Most of you have done nothing to earn a passing grade in my class. So explain to me why I owe you anything, when you owe me everything?"

"Because, you care." A shy boy in the back said. He was not failing the class. One of only five students with an A.

"I do care. I care a great deal about you all. But I care more about the lessons you learn here. If you fail, will you learn something from it? Will you try harder next year?"

She looked at them. Most of them hadn't gotten the way they were overnight. It had taken years of being overlooked and ignored for them to take such a careless approach to her class.

"I'm not so sure. And so, I will give you something you didn't earn. I will redeem your grades."





The class erupted in hooting and hollering. "If," she shouted over the chaos. "Each of you can tell me one thing you learned in my class this year."

They went around the room, and the kids offered her more insight than she'd gotten all year, their gratitude plain on their faces.

"Now, next year, maybe you won't find yourself in this position. Carry that gratitude with you."

They all promised they would, and she believed them.

Reminders

-  Our memory verse is Isaiah 64:8. This week, have the agents form a circle and have each agent say one word of the verse. Make your way around the circle until the verse is completed. Pick up speed or slow it down to make it more challenging!
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Let's Play

The game is an essential part of your CIA meeting. Use it to help drive the message of God's love and redemption home for your agents. Use the QR code to find the complete rules for 9 Square. If you don't have the tools to play 9 Square, feel free to play The Floor is Lava. Use this game to show your agents that life is often a combination of

rushing around while trying to keep your "balls" (like homework, relationships, chores, etc.) in the air, or keep out of the lava. The grace and redemption we are given in Christ allows us to live our lives with a freedom that comes from knowing that even if we don't keep the balls in the air or fall in the lava, we can just get back

to it without fear of failing because Christ achieved the victory we truly needed when he overcame sin and death and redeemed us all.



Praise and Prayer

Take a moment during each meeting to speak to your agents about the worries on their hearts. If they aren't feeling the joy of their own redemption pray that God fills their heart with gratitude for His great love. Be sure to check in on some older prayers and see which ones have been answered, and offer praise for those that have.



Hey, you wanna do a small group?

Sure. Why?

No matter what age group you have, small groups are the perfect opportunity to drive home the message of the lesson. You can take this time to really delve into the topic, and relate it back to the agents on a personal level, no matter how old they are.

Ok, great! What questions should I ask?

Start with this:

1. How did Christ's death on the cross redeem you and me?

2. How do you think Christ felt about his purpose on this Earth? How does his job (to pay for your sins) make you feel about your job (as a Christian)?

3. What does redemption mean to you?

4. After what Jesus did, is it possible to earn your redemption?

5. Between now and the next meeting, how can you show Christ in Action to the people around you?

These are great! Thanks so much.

One more thing. It's ok if you don't get to all the questions. Just make sure your agents are feeling seen. That's the best way to build relationships with them, and help them deepen their relationship with Christ.

The New Testament and **REDEMPTION**

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.



Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.



1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.



Hebrews 9:15

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.



John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



Verses taken from the NIV

Our Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for redeeming us. Thank You for Jesus. For sending Him to earth to pay our debts, rescue us from our sins, and defeat death. Help us be grateful always for this gift, and His sacrifice. Give us the tools, and confidence, we need to show others this amazing gift. It's in Your precious name we pray.

Amen.

Notes