

Read: Isaiah 52:1-6

Redeemed by the Blood of Jesus

Isaiah 52:3

For this is what the Lord says: “You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.”

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sarah helped her family lug all sorts of unwanted furniture, household items, and clothes out to the garage to sell at their family garage sale that Saturday.

Among the items hauled out was a doll that Sarah considered herself too old to play with anymore. She hoped that she could sell the doll and use that money toward the phone she had her eye on.

During the garage sale a handful of people looked at the doll she had for sale. However, after seeing the price, everyone passed on buying it. Disappointed, she asked her mom why no one bought her doll. Her mom responded, “While that doll may have been worth that price when it was brand new, it is now slightly worn and well-used. You’ll have to lower the price if you want to sell it. Things are only worth as much as people are willing to pay for them.”

Things are only worth as much as people are willing to pay for them. How much are you worth? God’s Word tells us our worth and how much someone was willing to pay for us.

In our Bible passage today, we heard the word redeemed. The word redeem means to buy back. This is a beautiful word that describes exactly what God did for us. Because of our sinfulness, we were like slaves to sin. On our own, we were helpless to be free. We were destined to be enslaved forever.

Then, along came Jesus. Jesus loved us so much that he bought us back from our slavery. However, Jesus didn’t buy us with money. No, we are so valuable to Jesus that he paid the full price with his life. On the cross, Jesus suffered the punishment of hell that we deserved. On that day, Jesus declared how much you are worth to him! You’re priceless! Through faith in Jesus, our sins are fully forgiven! We have been redeemed—set free from sin and death!

This is why we are able to eagerly look forward to Jesus’ return on judgment day. He has already redeemed and forgiven us by his blood. That day will be a joyous day reunion with him! On that day, Jesus will bring us to be with him in our eternal home in heaven.

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for Younger Children

- How much are you worth to God? How do you know?
- Why will judgment day be a happy day for us?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- What does the word redeem mean? From what did God redeem you?
- Many people mistakenly believe that someone gets to heaven by being a good person. How would you explain to them how someone gets to heaven?

Questions for Middle School and Above

- Many young people and teenagers struggle with negative thoughts and opinions about themselves. How does thinking about the way God views us help us deal with these feelings?
- Identify a bad habit in your life that has enslaved you. How does Christ's redemption through the cross free you from it?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for redeeming us from our slavery to sin. Thank you for suffering the punishment for sins that we deserve and giving your life to save us! Help us to find comfort every day in knowing that we are your dearly loved children and to eagerly look forward to the day you bring us home to heaven! Amen.

Hymn: CW 304:2,7 – Jesus Sinners Does Receive

We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe
Jesus sinners does receive.

Jesus sinners does receive.
Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave
Jesus sinners does receive.