

Module 1, Week 1

Understanding Redemption

Monday:

Core Truth from Sunday: True disciples exchange their pursuits, passions and possessions to carry the cross of Jesus' mission.

Application:

#1: Love God more than anything else. (Read: Luke 10:25-28)

We have to love God enough that we're willing to lay down our pursuits to follow Jesus.

- Is there something in your life that is more important than God?
 - _____
- If you suddenly became successful in your pursuits, would you stop pursuing God?
 - _____
- When was the last time you worshipped God like you worshipped your favorite TV show?
 - _____

#2: Deny yourself and take up the cross. (Luke 14:25-27; 9:23-26; 9:59-62)

To **take up** one's **cross** is simply to be willing to pay any price for Christ's sake. It is the willingness to endure shame, embarrassment, reproach, rejection, persecution, and even martyrdom for His sake.

To take up your cross means there is nothing in your life that you're more passionate about than Jesus and his mission.

- Is there someone in your life that you are more passionate about than Jesus?
 - _____
- Is there a person you're more interested in chasing than God?
 - _____
- Is there someone you haven't been willing to tell about what Jesus has done for you because you're afraid of being embarrassed or rejected?
 - _____
- Are you ashamed of being a Christian because it's becoming less and less popular?
 - _____
- What about your 8 - 15? Have you taken the time to write out the list of 8 to 15 people God has put in your life for you to reach for the Kingdom of God?

- _____
- When you do, will you **pray** every day and **expect** God to create opportunities for you to **invest** in your relationship with them and **invite** them to church?

#3: Forsake all that you have. (Luke 18:18-29;

To forsake all that we have means that there are no possessions we are pursuing that are more important than God.

- There can be no possession we have that we aren't willing to lay down for the sake of the Gospel.
- Is there some man-made thing that has your heart?

○ _____

- Where does your money go?
 - Do you spend more money on habits than you give to the church?
 - _____
 - Do you tithe (Give 10% of your income to the church)?
 - _____
 - Do you spend more money on hobbies than you give to the poor?
 - _____
 - Have you ever thought about what companies you're making rich?
 - _____
- Are you willing to give up temporary satisfaction for eternal abundance?
 - _____

Prayer Focus:

- Pray this prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to apply these truths to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes."

Tuesday:

Have you ever known a know-it-all? I'm sure you have. Without taking too much time, I'm sure you can think back to your days in school and remember that kid in class who always had the answer. They were the ones who read ahead in the book. They were the first to raise their hand when the teacher asked a question. If the teacher forgot that she was supposed to give you a quiz that day, they were the ones that reminded the teacher about the quiz.

Perhaps someone else you remember from your school days, that guy or girl who could do anything well. You know, the ones that started on the varsity football team, the varsity

basketball team, the varsity baseball team and could start for soccer too if the season didn't overlap with another, real sport.

These were the people that drove the rest of us with an IQ in the normal range and athletic ability in the average range absolutely crazy. We were smart, but we weren't that smart. We were talented, but we weren't that talented.

Then there was that guy. The guy who started at the varsity level in every sport and he was also the smartest guy in the class. He'll never have to pay a dime for college. He's just that good.

Don't judge me, but didn't you just want to destroy that guy? Didn't you want to memorize his schedule so you'd know when to sneak up on him in a dark alley? Come on, you know you did.

If you will, keep that guy in mind. Because no matter how smart he was, there is an infinite amount of things he will never know. And no matter how talented she is, there are countless things they will never be able to do well.

In fact, there has never been a normal person who knew everything. There has never been a normal person who was good at everything.

Only God is that good. On top of that, it is only God who made everything - including that guy or that girl. God created them. God made the person who had the idea for the sport they would excel at. God made the person who observed the knowledge they would write down. Oh yeah, and God made the knowledge that person would know, just like He made the grass they'd play football on and the animal that would be used to make the ball they'd play with.

God knows everything and God made everything.

Pray these prayers:

- "Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes..."
- "...Through the power of your Spirit, prepare me to be able to apply the truth I am learning this week..."

Wednesday:

Memory Verse:

- Romans 11:33-36
33 "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"

36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

Read the verse out-loud 5 times.

Go to www.68church.com to download wallpaper for your computer or smartphone to help you learn this scripture throughout the week.

Prayer Focus

- "Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes..."
- Pray through the verse. Simply read the verse with an attitude of worship:
 - **33** "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
 - **34** "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"
 - **35** "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"
 - **36** For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

Thursday:

Study the passage in context from Wednesday.

- Romans 11:33-36
 - 33** "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
 - 34** "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"
 - 35** "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"
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When studying sections of scripture, here are four questions that are helpful to ask:

What is the context of this passage? (What was going on in the chapter(s) leading up to this passage?)

What does this passage say?

What is the timeless truth that is being stated?

How do I apply this truth to my life?

Prayer focus

- “Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes...”
- “...as I seek to understand more of your written word, would you open my mind to your truth. Teach me to understand your ways and give me strength to live in them...”

Friday:

For someone who is a follower of Christ, it’s important that we begin with in the right place. We live in a fallen world. It’s world that has been spinning around us ever since Adam & Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Of course, it doesn’t literally spin around us, although it’s interesting to note the progression science had to go through to come to the understanding that the universe doesn’t revolve around the earth.

In fact, that very notion lies at the core of the human condition. Our nature is to make everything about us. And that is the struggle we must put in balance as we begin to understand redemption.

Who is the story of redemption about? I believe it is in our nature to think that redemption is all about us. That God sent His son to die for us because He so desperately wanted us to be with Him. Did God send His son to save us. Yes. Does God want us to be with Him. Yes. Does that make the whole story of redemption about us? It does not.

The story of redemption begins with God. Redemption was God's plan. And all of God's plans are designed to bring Him glory. This is why we are focusing in on Romans 11:33-36.

33 "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

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There is so much about God that we don't and can't understand. We find, at the end of the Gospel of John (21:25): "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." If all of the things Jesus did couldn't be written down, how arrogant is it of us to think that we know all of God's ways simply because we have the Bible?

To live a truly, God-honoring life, we have to begin with God. We have to begin with the understanding that understanding is a gift of God. We have to understand that knowledge is a gift. We have to understand that God knows everything there is to know and that he made everything out of his knowledge and desire.

Prayer focus:

- "Heavenly Father, as we continue to think about what we learned last week, help me to not be satisfied with knowing the facts. Give me a deep desire to live out with my actions what I know with my intentions..."
- Ask God to remind you of things He has done in your life this week so that you can share them with some of us on Sunday.
- Pray and expect God to create opportunities for you to invest in your relationship with one of your 8 to 15 and then invite them to church on Sunday.

Saturday:

Rest