

ICEBREAKER

Summer is upon us! What are your summer plans if any?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read: 1 Kings 8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• The SOURCE OF REDEMPTION - Sacrifice

Read: Galatians 3:13-14

What is "redemption"? The English verb "redeem" comes from the Latin meaning "to buy back". In New Testament understanding, Jesus paid a high price – His own life – to redeem or buy us back from our enslavement to sin and death, and the eternal penalty of God's just condemnation for our willful rebellion

Sacrifice reflects loving-kindness. Sometimes in religion we emphasize obedience and rule-keeping more than the loving relationship which is really the foundation.

Have you ever had to make a significant sacrifice that cost you more than you would have ever thought you would sacrifice? What was the sacrifice and cost?

God the Father sacrificed Jesus His only son so that we may be redeemed back to Him. How can we live our lives in a way that brings honour to the sacrifice that was made for our eternal salvation?

• The SECURITY OF REDEMPTION God faithfully keeps His Promises

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:20
1 Kings 8:23-34

Notice the parallelism – with your MOUTH you've promised (word) and with your HAND you have fulfilled it (working, power). What God promises, He has complete power and ability to bring about. God faithfully keeps His Promises.

Have you ever made a promise and were unable to keep it? What do you recall of that time and the circumstances? How did the person you made the promise to react when you were unable to follow through in keeping your word?

Recall a time that you made a promise that was a difficult choice at the time and that you did follow through in keeping your word. How did the person you made the promise to react when you did what you said you would do?

• The SHOCK OF REDEMPTION Awed when God Shows Up

Read: Luke 5:8

Hebrews 12:28-29

1 Kings 8:29

1 Kings 8:41

The Name is the local referent for the invisible non-material transcendent God; it represents His fame, His renown, His character. The whole thrust of salvation history, God's dealings with people, is to show the greatness of His name, His outstanding glory. God's reputation getting around and causing a stir, a sensation, is what it's about!

How do you represent the Name of God in your home? your workplace? your community? Is God being glorified by how you live with others?

• The SORRINESS OF REDEMPTION When we Pray sincerely with Transparent Hearts, God Hears and Forgives

Read: Matthew 5:23-24
Acts 3:19-20

While Solomon may have been dedicating one of the most impressive religious edifices in the history of the world, his prayer shows that he understands true spirituality not as going through the right motions or making regular pilgrimages to holy sites, but that true spirituality has to do with what's going on in each person's heart, in their interior life and interaction with God's Spirit.

Have you sought forgiveness from the Lord recently for something you could share with your group?

Do you need to go to someone and ask for forgiveness for something you have done, something you said? Will you make that courageous step to do that this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION / CHALLENGE

Consider what Christ has set us free from and walk in forgiveness of others and extend God's love to all.

THIS WEEK'S MISSIONARIES

Please keep our missionary family in Northern Asia in your prayers as this week's highlighted missionaries.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS