

Redeemed

LEADER GUIDE

A Tool for Sharing Your Story of Redemption

A SIX WEEK STUDY



Redeemed: A Six Week Study

We are excited that you will be studying Redeemed in a group setting, because the truth is you will need other people in order to share your story. This study might push everyone to dig a bit deeper and be vulnerable about parts of their lives that are not Instagram-worthy or polished. We hope you will choose to go deep and enter into those conversations.

This leader guide is simply meant to support you as you lead by providing additional questions for your group to discuss. If your group has a lively discussion going, there's no need to rush to get through all the questions. We want to make your role a bit easier by providing a starting point to get the conversation going.

Leader Expectations

1. Gather and Facilitate Conversation

We recommend that everyone in your small group read Redeemed daily in their study book or online through the IF:Gathering app or IFEquip.com. Once a week, gather with your small group to dialogue about the daily questions and/or discuss the group discussions questions provided in this guide.

2. Build a Safe Environment for Your People to Go Deep

Pray: Pray in preparation for your small group gatherings. Beg for the Holy Spirit to fall afresh and use your time together for God's glory.

Lean on God: God will have a unique agenda for your group each time you meet. Rely on Him instead of trying to control the conversation. Lean into your own weakness and into His strength and direction.

Be transparent: If you choose not to be vulnerable, no one else will be. If you desire women to feel safe with you and your group, be vulnerable.

Listen but also lead: Some women are taking a tremendous risk in being vulnerable with you. Protect them by not interrupting; instead, listen and empathize. In love, direct them to what the truth of God's Word says in their situation.

Model trust: Show your group how you are seeking God. Confess unbelief and ask for greater obedience to what God is doing. Ask God to convict you and lead based on how you are processing His will in your own life.

3. Keep Unity a Central Value

As a leader, we give you the responsibility to keep a spirit of unity within your group. We ask for sensitivity, openness, and a simple and pure environment for everyone to study the scriptures and share their stories. Ask the Spirit to guide you in demonstrating love to everyone that you come across as you prepare and guide the conversation.

Supplies

- IF:Equip Study book for each attendee, or access to the study on the IF:Gathering app or IFEquip.com
- Leader Guide
- Bible

Optional: Daily videos. If there are daily videos on IFEquip.com or in the IF:Gathering app that you feel are important to your discussion, use your computer or phone to play the video for the group.

Suggested Format

We suggest that women do the IF:Equip study on their own daily, then come together once a week to discuss your experience and what you have learned from the study. Begin with prayer and the daily questions, then supplement your discussion with the questions in this guide. Since the focus of this study is sharing your story, consider meeting for an additional week or two at the end of the study to allow each person time to share her story.



Week One:

Introduction

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What has been your experience with sharing your story with others?
- What is your initial reaction to being asked to share your story?
- What fears come to mind when you think about sharing your story? How can God free you from these fears?
- What is one of your favorite stories? What do you love about it?
- Which of the four themes of story (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration) feels most relatable to you and your story?
- Is there someone in your life whose story had a powerful impact on you? If so, who and why?
- What is the purpose behind sharing your story?
- What do you hope to gain from this study?



Week Two:

The Power of Your Story

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When Elizabeth heard Mary's news, she was reminded of the goodness of God. How have you experienced the goodness of God through another person's story?
- Have you found it difficult to move past the "launching point" part of your story and sharing more?
- How has God proved Himself good and faithful in your life this month or this week?
- How can your story be used as a tool for discipleship?
- Do you feel intimidated to disciple someone because of worry about the outcome or fear of not "getting it right?" How does the truth from 2 Timothy impact the way you think about sharing your story?
- What scriptural truth can you ground yourself in to be reminded that you are a redeemed child of God?
- How have you experienced discipleship through someone sharing their story with you?



Week Three:

Paul's Conversion Story

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is your reaction to Paul's conversion story?
- Paul's conversion story was amazing, yet simple: he met the living Jesus, and his life was changed. Does this perspective change the way you approach your own story?
- What part of your life are you most tempted to "polish up" for others?
- Do you ever feel the need to alter your story for your audience? What keeps you from sharing the messy, vulnerable parts of your story?
- How can you fight the lies of guilt or shame that might be holding you back from sharing your story because of fear of what others might think?
- Paul's story was not his to change, alter or polish. It was his to proclaim. What makes our stories a powerful tool for discipleship and proclaiming God's works?
- Just like with Elisabeth and Rachel, you are the right woman for the job the Lord has given to you. For what reasons do you feel like the Lord is calling you to share your story?
- What past experiences have prepared you for your current circumstances?
- Is there someone you know with whom you feel called to share the story God has given you?



Week Four:

God Working in

Moses' Story

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Has the Lord given you a role or calling that you never expected to receive?
- Have you felt that your story is not “powerful” or “dramatic” enough? How do these thoughts keep you from sharing your story?
- Have you had a “burning bush” moment where everything in your life changed?
- What part of your life do you feel God is continually working for His glory?
- Where do you see God’s purposes for Moses being woven together throughout his life?
- Have you ever struggled to believe that your story has the ability to show how good and powerful God has been in your life?
- God chose broken people throughout the Bible to fulfill his purposes. Abraham, Moses, and Mary & Joseph were all unlikely “heroes” who brought glory to God through their obedience to Him. Which of these stories resonates the most with you?
- What legacy would you like to leave? What story do you want your life to ultimately tell?

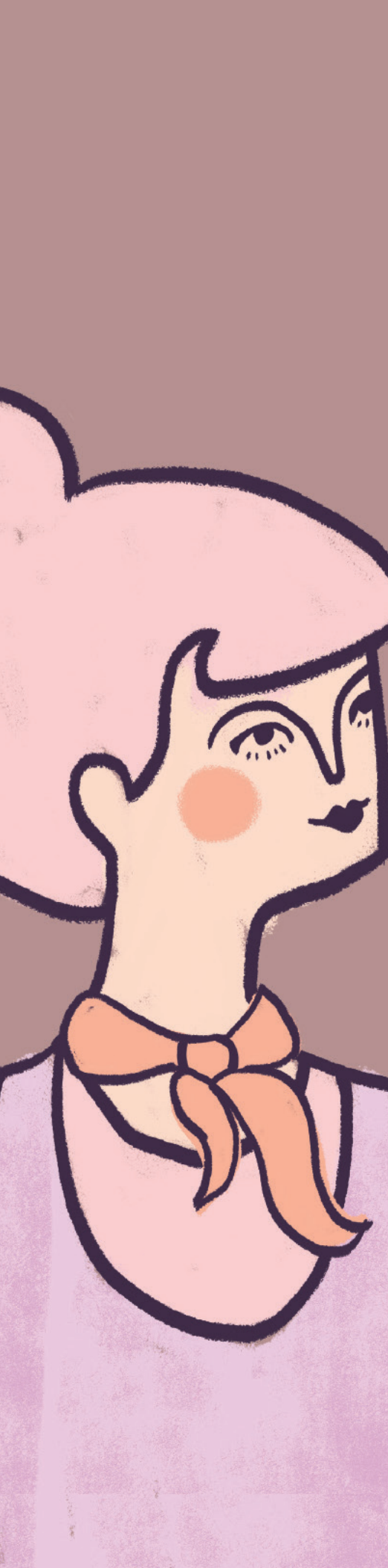


Week Five:

Writing Out Your Story

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- As you are writing your story this week, pray for protection from Satan who may try to use your story to beat yourself up or to wish for a different story. Pray that God will help you view the experience of writing out your story as a way to bring freedom — bringing light into the darkness and proclaiming God's victory and redemption in your life.
- Have you ever taken the time to write out your story?
- What was the process of writing out your story like for you? Did it bring up feelings or memories that you didn't expect?
- As you wrote your story this week, did any of the questions feel more challenging than the others?
- Were you challenged in the way you were asked to write out your story according to the themes of fallen, redeemed, and restored?
- How do you feel now that you have written out your story?
- How does the process of writing out your story change what you believe about God? About yourself?
- Did writing out your story bring more clarity to God's purposes and plans for your life?



Week Six:

How to Share

Your Story

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Has this study changed the way you see your story?
- How has this study helped you to understand that your story is not your own; rather, it's God's story of redemption?
- How do you discern who the Lord is calling you to share your story with?
- Do you find it easy to turn to prayer before doing something like sharing your story? What makes it easy? What makes it difficult?
- What is your experience with critique? Is that something you are willing to welcome into your story?
- Where do you see God's faithfulness in your story?
- Where do you see God's faithfulness in one another's stories?
- How might God use your story to help others know Him?
- With whom do you feel called to share your story?