



Introduction

The history of humanity is written on the pages of scripture, and over the last few weeks, we've zoomed out to take in God's Big Story. Starting in Genesis, we've been reminded of how God reigned in creation – lovingly making us in His image. We've faced the fact we've ruined perfection, and the sin we've chosen has devastating effects. Thankfully for us, this isn't where God's Big Story ends. This week, we turn the page to learn how God desires to renew what was ruined. We can rest in the unrelenting kindness, the righteous jealousy and the consistent faithfulness of the God who's chosen not to leave us in our self-appointed state of ruin but to fiercely pursue what belongs to Him. As we're reminded of His promise for renewal, we can look ahead with hope, knowing it's a promise we can count on.

Discussion

1. **Read Genesis 15.** The promise to renew us is one God takes full responsibility for. Is this different from promises you've made or others have made to you? Does it, or should it, affect our day-to-day lives when we consider God's promises are dependable, true and unchanged by our inconsistency?
2. In Genesis, we read how God showed Abraham and his family that God is kind, jealous and faithful. What are some other examples in the Bible of God demonstrating these characteristics to pursue someone who was "ruined"?
3. Think of a time in your life when God showed His kindness, righteous jealousy or faithfulness. Briefly share your story and how that experience has impacted your life since then.

Think About It

Often, the promises we make are contingent on something else. "I promise I'll take out the trash if you vacuum the floors." Or, "If the weather is nice on Friday, I promise we can go to the park." Maybe almost as frequently, we lack follow through on those promises because we change our minds, we forget, or we just don't feel like sticking to them. God's consistency is different when it comes to staying true to what He commits to. He doesn't change His mind, He doesn't forget, and His love and desire to renew us is always strong. His kindness is undeserved, His jealousy for we who belong to Him is right, and His faithfulness isn't dependent on how well we hold up "our end of the deal." When we look at the Big Story, we see what we ruined is what He desires and promises to renew.

Do Something

1. **Read Exodus 20:4-5.** It's wrong when we're jealous of what others have, but God is jealous for what belongs to Him – us! We're so valuable to Him that He's jealous for us when we choose to give our time and focus to other things. This week, pray through areas that have stolen your worship from God. Share this with a trusted friend and process how to redirect this area of your life.
2. Sometimes the way we feel isn't reflective of truth we know. Experiences of broken promises between each other can impact the way we view the promises God makes to us. Write your honest response to God's promised pursuit of you as His child. Ask God to align your feelings with the truth of His character we've learned this week.
3. Is there anyone in your circle who needs to hear God's promise to renew what's been "ruined"? Think of some ways to invite them into what you've been learning lately; then do it!