



Introduction

Pastor Chip explained in the fourth and final sermon in our *Arrival* series that Jesus came to bring redemption and free us from sin and death. "Redemption through Jesus" means we are delivered from slavery into freedom because He ransomed His life for us. It also means Jesus is renewing, or restoring, the image of God in us on a continual basis, so we can reach out and help our world see His redemption.

Discussion

1. Read **Colossians 1:13-14** and discuss the question Pastor Chip posed in his message: Which kingdom do you live in? How do you know? What difference has being in this kingdom made on your life?
2. Read **Mark 10:45** and **1 Peter 1:17-21**. Jesus "came to serve" when He gave His life for us as the perfect Lamb, to take away our sins through the shedding of His blood, once for all people. Why is it hard for us to accept this forgiveness? Is there something in your life you are holding onto because you think it is too bad for God to forgive or maybe you don't deserve forgiveness? Share your feelings on this question with the group. End this discussion with a time of prayer.
3. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17-20**. Discuss the difference in the life of the "old self" and the "new creation." What does a renewed life and purpose for life look like on a daily basis? What are some ways a person who is a "new creation" would try to renew, or influence, the people in their circle for the Kingdom?

Think About It

Oswald Chambers writes in his devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*, "When we think of being delivered from sin...we picture the peak of a great mountain. We see it as very high and wonderful, but we say, 'Oh, I could never live up there!' However, when we do get there through God's grace, we find it is not a mountain peak at all, but a plateau with plenty of room to live and grow." In other words, living a renewed life is not a mountaintop experience; it is a daily walk of renewal on the path God has laid out before us—with plenty of room to bring others alongside us on the journey!

Do Something

1. Take part of your private time with God to reflect on the message of renewal. Some resources you can use for a study on renewal are *Redemption: Freed by Jesus from the Idols We Worship and the Wounds We Carry* by Mike Wilkerson and a sermon series by Matt Chandler of the Village Church entitled *Recovering Redemption*, which can be found at thevillagechurch.net.
2. Pray for the members of your group who shared a painful experience or action in Discussion Question #2. Follow up with that person this week and encourage him/her.