

Sermon Discussion Questions

Ephesians: Through The Lens Of Redemption – Grant Braaten

24 August 2025

Sermon Text: Ephesians 1:1-7

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20-30 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

The week we start a new sermon series from the book of Ephesians with Grant's message entitled, **Ephesians: Through The Lens of Redemption**. Have you ever felt like theological concepts just run around in your head without anything to tie them together? (There doesn't seem to be any connecting thread and no "coat hanger" for us to hang these truths?) In his message this week, Grant breaks it down and explains that all these seemingly unrelated concepts do have connecting fibers. In fact, they are all rooted in **Redemption**. Let's get into the message and explore how they all tie together and are completely wrapped up in our understanding of Redemption.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to consider when you last experienced the breath of God speaking into your life? Can you remember such a time? You were also asked to take some time to just be in God's presence and for Him to show you where he was working in the suffering of others. Did He reveal anything to you?
2. What was something that really jumped out to you from Grant's message this week?
3. If someone asked you, "What is the gospel/good news?" how would you answer? What are the most important components in your estimation?
4. Read through Ephesians 1:3-7 together. What else do you notice that we didn't touch on during Sunday's message? Which verse hit you the hardest? Which part do you need more understanding of?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. Finish this sentence, "I remember back when I was a kid" (No, you can't use the one where you walked to school, up-hill both ways.)
2. Are you more of a hoarder or a minimizer?
3. Are you unsweet tea, sweet tea, or "southern" sweet tea?

5. How does understanding the overall story of redemption transform the way we treat others, especially regarding grace?
6. How does understanding where we are on the timeline of redemption affect how you view your own life?
7. How does understanding the backdrop of the Old Testament use of redemption frame how you understand it in the present?

The three main words:

- pādāh, paw-daw' - ransom (a consideration paid or demanded for the release of someone or something from captivity), costly (requires a sacrifice). - 59x
- gā'al, gaw-al'; - Family language for a family member who buys back relative or land. Not a random rescuer, but a close relative who claims someone as their own. - 105x
- kâphar, kaw-far'; - cover or atone (tied to sacrifice) - removing guilt through substitution - 103x

APPLICATION

Spend some time this week just experiencing God's grace. We have been redeemed so we can experience His grace through His Beloved. Take some time this week and let that sink in.

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on, click on the NWC App, the website <https://nwckc.com>, or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Sermon study questions can also be found in all three locations.

The Call – Men's Retreat. 3-4 October. Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, MO. Join us for two powerful days of spiritual growth, worship, brotherhood, and unforgettable fun — all centered around being Rooted in Christ. The guest speaker is renowned author, Bob Sorge. Early Bird pricing ends on 31 August.

Register at:

<https://nwckc.com/men?sapurl=Lytxdm56L2xiL2V2LytjeDcyNnd6L3JlZ2lzdGVyP2JyYW5kaW5nPXRYdWUmbZW1iZWQ9dHJlZSZeZWV0ZT1hcHAud2ViLWFwcC5saWJyYXJ5LmNhbGVuZGFyJnJlY2VuZGFjdXRIU2x1Zz0lMkZidngycHNj>

Haiti Joy Hope Silent Auction. 1:30-4:00pm, 5 October. Liberty Community Center, 1600 S Withers Rd Liberty, MO 64068. Come bid on amazing items from local retail and services, gift cards, and so much more! ALL proceeds go to caring for vulnerable kids in Haiti - supporting a School, Feeding Programs, and a Children's Home!

FINAL THOUGHT

The “coat hanger” for all theology is Redemption.