



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of July 26th, 2020

Sermon: "Say So"

Text: Psalm 107

SUMMARY

In Christ we are enveloped in God's story: a story of Redemption. We have been redeemed from wandering, from imprisonment to sin, from foolish self-destruction, and from the storms of the world, all so that we can glorify and praise God with our story. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

FOR GROUPS

Testimonies are powerful. Instead of specific discussion questions this week, take some time to talk to your group about developing a habit of "story-telling". Re-read Psalm 107 and go over the four lenses of redemption (from wandering, from imprisonment, from foolishness, from the world). **The goal for your group should be for every group member to have an opportunity in the next 6 months to get the floor for 15-20 minutes and tell their story in light of God's story of redemption.** This week, start with two stories (maybe you should go first!). On subsequent weeks, try to do one before or after discussion as time allows until everyone has had the chance to tell their story. Do not pressure anyone into sharing: the goal should be to create a safe culture where everyone *wants* to.

How do I tell my story in light of God's story of redemption?

Redemption involves at least three parts: past, present, and future. Provide your group with the following questions to help them tell their story.

PAST

What key events or experiences have most significantly shaped your life? Try to identify five-ten of them. In what ways has the Gospel story better interpreted or completed those events or experiences?

PRESENT

How are some of those events or experiences still writing the dominant storyline for you? How does redemption in Christ rewrite your story, redeem your past and influence your present?

FUTURE

What key hopes, dreams, or life changes are you looking forward to? Try to identify five-ten of them: are they grounded in the story of the Gospel? Where do they need to be corrected or completed by the good news of Jesus?

What do I do after someone shares their story?

- **Encourage them in Christ.** If they have serious hurt or pain in their past, it could get a little emotional. Make sure they walk away from group hearing the truth of the gospel.
- **Point them to Scripture.** Give them some truths and promises to hold onto and come back to again. Ask if anyone in the group has any encouragement or scripture to share with them.
- **Pray for them.** Get on your knees right there and have at least two other group members pray for them.
- **Follow up.** After group, encourage them again and thank them for sharing. If you feel like their sharing presented some serious needs that require other help or support, reach out to a pastor with their blessing.