

# THE SIX WEEK PURSUIT + HERO'S LEGACY +

## ADULT SMALL-GROUP STUDY

To the Teacher/Independent Studier,

This study is designed to accompany you as you teach the members of our church. This booklet and the accompanying video are only supplements. Feel free to take ownership of the materials and allow the Spirit to lead you as we talk about the heroes of the Bible together.

Included in this packet are pages intended to be handouts to your group/family with fill-in the blank lines that correspond to the video supplements on our Riverside Lighthouse website, and our Riverside Lighthouse YouTube page.

I realize it is much to ask, and that is why your partnership is both deeply appreciated and treasured. May God bless you immensely as we grow in our walk together!

Sincerely,  
Your Pastors

### ***Week 6 – “Mark: What Redemption Means”***

#### ***Pre-Lesson Study:***

To the Teacher:

This lesson will be best accomplished by the Teacher first studying **Acts 15:36-41, 2 Timothy 4:9-11, and Mark 8:34-38**. If you would like to add any other verses that would enhance the study or speak to your heart, then please feel free to include them. The video portion of the lesson will cover Acts 15:36-41 and 2 Timothy 4:9-11, but you will be responsible for the additional thoughts of Mark 8:34-38. As you study, keep the following in mind:

#### **Themes to Keep in Mind:**

- As you study the Scriptures, remember our true hero, founder, and perfecter of our faith is Jesus Himself. All of those we read about, who are considered heroes of the faith, are in truth simply reflections of the greatest one of all.
- Keep an eye out for how we can practically apply our faith and for what we can learn from the subtle story of John Mark.

#### **Questions to Keep in Mind:**

- Mark wrote the Gospel that later became a template for both Matthew's Gospel and Luke's Gospel. In the midst of his writing, he includes Jesus' statement that in order to

follow Him, one must deny their own life and take up their cross. How does this message weave into John Mark's own redemption and story?

- Why is redemption for others, especially those who have hurt us, so difficult?

Once you have read and studied the 2 Scriptures noted above, you are ready to preview the Adult Group lesson for preparation.

**Lesson Opener:** Welcome to the 6-Week Pursuit, Week 6, and today's topic: "What Redemption Means". We will focus on John Mark today and what we can learn from this founding father of the church.

**Ice Breaker Question:** Have you ever tried something once and immediately thought to yourself: never again! This could be a food, an activity, a type of movie, etc.

**Video – Vern Weaver – “What Redemption Means”:** pass out the copies of the handout for this lesson and encourage learners to fill in the blanks in the handout as they watch the video.

**Learner Handouts – Teacher's Guide:** the corresponding blanks are highlighted

1. Paul thought John Mark was unfit for ministry because he abandoned the mission.
2. Barnabas was a believer in restoration through Jesus.
3. John Mark was restored and proven worthy because Barnabas gave him the chance.
4. Jesus' work on the cross is all about redemption and restoration.
5. No one is too far gone for God to redeem them.

**Video Follow-Up Questions:** encourage every member of your group to pitch in an answer as you walk through these questions together.

**Question #1:** Is there anyone in your life you have written off; that is, you believe will never get things right with God and seem beyond redemption? These could be people you know, politicians, public figures, etc. Why do they seem beyond help?

**Question #2:** What do you think it would take to redeem someone who seems beyond restoration?

**Question #3:** Do you think, sometimes, you are beyond redemption? Do you believe there are parts of your personality or life that just are beyond help? Why or why not?

**Going Deeper:** now read **Mark 8:34-38** together. Use your previous study of the passage to inform this portion of the conversation.

**Final Question:** Jesus wants to redeem everyone. He died so that all may be saved; meaning all have an opportunity to be saved until the day they die. That includes us, and everyone around us we believe and perceive as either disqualified for God's work, or even beyond salvation. How can we shift our perspective to see people as Jesus sees them? Do you want Jesus to alter your perspective?

**Prayer Emphasis:** conclude the lesson with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray for salvation for your enemies and/or those who have wronged you.
- Pray for God's mercy and grace to fill you
- Pray for God to illuminate your weakness and forgive where you have fallen short
- Pray for Jesus to restore you to the fullest, leaving no stone unturned

**Continue to the next page for the lesson handouts, questions, and video follow-ups.**

## LESSON HANDOUTS:

### WEEK 6 STUDY “MARK: WHAT REDEMPTION MEANS”

Fill in the blanks as you watch the supplemental video to today’s lesson. If you miss any answers, your group’s teacher can provide them.

1. Paul thought John Mark was \_\_\_\_\_ for ministry because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Barnabas was a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. John Mark was \_\_\_\_\_ because Barnabas \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus’ work on the cross is all about \_\_\_\_\_.
5. No one is \_\_\_\_\_ for God to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### Video Follow-Up Questions

Question #1: Is there anyone in your life you have written off; that is, you believe will never get things right with God and seem beyond redemption? These could be people you know, politicians, public figures, etc. Why do they seem beyond help?

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Question #2: What do you think it would take to redeem someone who seems beyond restoration?

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**Final Question:** Jesus wants to redeem everyone. He died so that all may be saved; meaning all have an opportunity to be saved until the day they die. That includes ourselves, and everyone around us we believe and perceive as either disqualified for God’s work, or even beyond salvation. How can we shift our perspective to see people as Jesus sees them? Do you want Jesus to alter your perspective?

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