

At The Movies

Hoosiers

Redemption. Second chances. Grace paid forward.

In the movie Hoosiers, Coach Normal Dale comes to a small town in Indiana to coach a High School basketball team. But Coach Dale has a dark past, one that he's tried to run from, like many of us. But the truth is, not only can you not outrun your past, but you don't need to.

Throughout the Bible there is the idea of redemption. It is talked about repeatedly in the New Testament by the Apostle Paul. The idea is that we have grace and redemption offered to us, and there's no amount of work we can do to earn it. It's a gift. It's not on us.

As group read the following passages:

[Ephesians 1:7](#) ESV

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

[Colossians 1:14](#) ESV

in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

[Romans 3:24](#) ESV

and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

[1 Corinthians 1:30](#) ESV

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption

What are the words in the above texts that describe what we have in Jesus?

Choose two or three texts from above and read them in a different translation of the Bible. Compare what each one is saying.

As a group, list five people from the Bible God used to reach the world.

Here are some people that God used...

Noah - Drunk just to start with

Moses - Anger issues to the max

Rahab - Harlot

Samson - He's pretty much the Gaston of the Bible. 'Nuff said.

David - Adulterer/Murderer

Peter - Hotheaded coward

Thomas - Doubter

Paul - Murderer

God doesn't just stop there. He doesn't let our past hold us back, but He can use it to redeem others.

Quote from the message:

"Our past impacts who we are but it must never limit who we can become."

As Cletus in Hoosiers says, *"Your slates clean here, and we've got work to do."*

[Colossians 2:13-14](#) ESV

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Is there something you are holding on to that you need to let Jesus nail to the cross? Feel free to share this with your group so they can pray for you about this. If you don't feel comfortable doing that with your group, that's ok. Find a person, a pastor, a friend, and share with them so they can pray for you and help you surrender that to Jesus. God wants to work in you and through you. If you've accepted Jesus, your slate is clean, and we've got work to do!

Pray with your group.