



Sermon Study - Conversation Guide

March 17, 2024

“Rescued.”

Colossians 1:9-14

This guide is a discipleship tool for personal reflection, family conversations, for home groups, and for Table Talk on Sundays @10:40 am and 12:15 pm on the Lowell Patio

Coastal Community Church
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Last Sunday I was excited because the passage we read was so positive and hopeful, and then last week happened. In the middle of all the pain and stress and drama, Jesus said to me, "Andy, all of this is still positive and hopeful." How can this be? Jesus said so clearly to me, "I'm the same God that stood in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and I'm standing here with you now." Then all week long it's been an avalanche of love and support poured out from you. I'm grateful we stand together for Jesus and His Kingdom, and God Himself stands with us.

1:9 *We continually ask God that you would be...¹¹ strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,*

Paul is asking God to fill each of us with His power, not our own. Why? So that God can help us endure and be patient when the storm comes. What does that look like? Endurance and patience is believing God will answer our prayers, God will right the wrongs, God will defend us so that right now we can continue to choose kindness, compassion, and forgiveness while we wait.

When I'm irritated, annoyed, or deeply hurt, I will be tempted by the enemy to put down love, faith, and kindness so I can find a way to make that person pay. When we get annoyed or hurt at church, like when our preferences aren't favored, when I don't say things quite right, or someone else messes us up, we're tempted to stop giving, to stop coming, stop communicating, to assume the worst. We're tempted to take control, to demand our way, or to leave. If I quit on my faith or my purpose every time someone else rocks my boat, then I've just handed over the direction of my life to another person rather than God.

Mother Theresa wrote, "People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and Jesus. It was never between you and them anyway."

I pray God's power to fill your soul so that you can be patient and endure. I pray you hold onto Jesus and His way in the middle of the storm, so that He alone is your Savior and no one else. I pray you keep on choosing kindness, love, and compassion so that no person becomes your enemy, so that no person can bind your soul to the slavery you've been rescued from. I pray for God to give you His strength in your inner being so you can stand against the devil himself, armored...full of faith... full of joy...confident in Jesus to make a way where there is no way.

1:12 ...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Paul says we have an inheritance now and for all eternity. Everything God has given me isn't because I earned it. God is the One who has qualified me even when I was a knucklehead. Therefore, I don't then turn around and demand others to qualify themselves before I love them well. No, I give my inheritance...all God's love and forgiveness and kindness...to the people who deserve it the least, because that is what God has done for me. This is why we give thanks.

Heavenly Father, thank You for my church and their love for me and my family. Thank You for endings and new beginnings. Thank You that I'm living in an answered prayer right now, and that You will answer my next prayer. Thank You, Jesus, for providing for me every step of the way. Thank You for Your mercy to me when I hurt others so that now I have mercy to give when I am hurt. Thank You for being kind to me so I can be kind to others. Thank You for being generous to me so that I can continue to give.

Next, Paul explains more so we grasp the life-changing love of Jesus.

1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

You and I have been rescued from the dominion of darkness. Dominion is when someone has absolute control over everything in their grasp. The dominion of darkness is slavery. It's me living apart from Jesus so that every time I try and solve a problem, the tools I use create more problems, and the circle of slavery continues. But now I've been rescued!

In Christ, we're no longer bound as a slave to our old ways. We're free. Every time we're knocked down, Jesus uses us to lift each other back up. We're rescued. We're no longer slaves. The adventure we're living right now is better than any of us could imagine. It's time to get excited!

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDELINES: Tips for great conversation

- We aren't here to teach/fix each other, but to share our experiences.
- Show respect by listening to one another, asking clarifying questions.
- If you're quick to share, allow space and time for others to speak up.
- If you're slow to speak, your experience is valuable so please share.

INTRO

Invite everyone to introduce themselves and then read the Bible verses.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the message and Scripture was most encouraging, and which part is most challenging?
2. What did You notice about God, and what did you notice about yourself as well as other people?

GOSPEL EXCHANGE (REDEMPTIVE WORK)

Jesus asks us to give Him our burdens (Matthew 11:28-29), whatever they may be (a lie we have believed about God or ourselves, our hurt or negative emotions, or even our concerns for loved ones), so He can carry them for us, giving us His peace (His completeness) in exchange.

What do you want to exchange with Jesus today?

What is the burden? "Lord Jesus, I give you my..."

What's His gift? "Lord Jesus, I receive your..."

ACTION QUESTIONS

1. What is one step of obedience you can take this week, based on what you've discovered today? (*NOTE – Consider prayerfully asking God to answer this question for you, taking 30-45 seconds to listen in silence, writing what you heard. If nothing comes clear, keep praying this week.*)
2. During the coming week, who can you share what you learned today? (*NOTE – Consider repeating the same step with this question as the previous question.*)