

Priceless! You are Redeemed!

Pizza and Redemption

As a child, I remember participating in the Pizza Hut "Book It!" reading program. It was a program that began in 1984 (and is still going strong today), The concept was simple. Reach the monthly reading goal that your teacher set for the classroom and you were given a certificate to receive one free, one topping personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut. For a child who only received a weekly allowance that was my age multiplied by 10 cents (when I was 10 I got \$1.00 a week) I could never afford to simply go to Pizza Hut and buy my own personal pan pizza whenever I wanted. Let's be honest—pizza is a great motivator to a child, and who doesn't like free!



I remember the excitement when our family would get to go to Pizza Hut, and I would hand over my certificate, and I would receive my own personal size pizza that was all mine! When I gave up my coupon, I redeemed it. I was given the cash equivalent for it.

Did it cost me any money? Nope! Did it cost Pizza Hut anything? Yes. They picked up the cost of every single personal pan pizza that they have ever given to any child with a Reading Award Certificate. Was it worth it? For me, I loved it. I never had to shell out any of my allowance, which meant I could save it and spend it on something else. It was also worth it for Pizza Hut. It brought families into their restaurant and even if all the kids had coupons, Mom and Dad still had to eat.

Just like Pizza Hut paid the price of those personal pan pizzas, Jesus paid the price for our sins. The first part of Romans 6:23 says **for the wages of sin is death**. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and we have earned (wages) death. Hallelujah that isn't the end of the verse. Romans 6:23 goes on to say, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**. God decided that we didn't have to pay the payment for our sins.

1 Peter 1:18-19 says this, **For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect**. Jesus didn't pay for our sins with money, but with His very blood. He died a horrible, painful death on the cross. He was the perfect sacrifice—He had no sin—and He took the place for us. Billy Graham said, "God's holiness demands that sin be punished—but God's love has provided the way of redemption through Christ."

Was it worth it? Definitely! Colossians 1:13-14 tells us, **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins**. Hallelujah! I've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb!



Inside this issue

Conversation Starters.....	2
Additional Resources.....	2
Prayer Prompts	2
Monthly Bible Reading	3
Ideas from the Territory.....	3
Women Preach Sunday	4-7
A Redemption Story	8
Identity Statements.....	8

Territorial Women's Ministries Department

Commissioner Colleen Riley—
Territorial President
of Women's Ministries

Colonel Genevera Vincent—
Territorial Secretary
for Women's Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—
Territorial Women's Ministries
Program Secretary

Conversation Starters



Gather with some friends and spend some time going deep with conversation around the fact that you are redeemed by God.

- ◆ What is the first thing you remember buying with your own money? Did it mean more because you bought it?
- ◆ What did the cross cost Jesus?
- ◆ What does it say about Jesus that He was willing to pay the price for your sins?
- ◆ Where have you seen redemption in your life?
- ◆ Redemption provides a picture of the gospel—we were slaves to sin and Satan, Jesus died to pay the ransom price and redeem us, and now we are free in Him. How does the “redemption” picture help you understand the meaning of the cross?
- ◆ If Christ has redeemed you from the bondage of sin and the kingdom of Satan, are there areas in your life in which you could more fully live out this truth?
- ◆ How will you thank Jesus for the cross today and every day?

“The cost of redemption cannot be overstated. The wonders of grace cannot be overemphasized. Christ took the hell He didn’t deserve so we could have the heaven we don’t deserve.” Randy Alcorn

Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *Redemption and Forgiveness* by Captain Raghel Santiago

Blog: *Flourishing in Our Identity: You are Redeemed* by Colonel Genevera Vincent

Devotional: *Redemption—What is It?* by Lt. Andrielli Gonzalez

Craft: *Resurrection Easter Craft* by Major Lynn Stewart

Check out our Playlist of songs that speak of our identity in Christ: WM 2024-2025

Priceless: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7xLxDn8lLdAq4je3D5L4YK?si=547054ac7309495c>

Promo Code Prayer Prompts

The days of physical coupons are gone, but we see coupons, promo codes and sales all the time. You shop on a new website—almost all of them have a pop-up for getting an instant discount. At your favorite restaurant you get a free appetizer if you sign up for their loyalty program. At the grocery store, you can get points for money off your next tank of gas, if you add your phone number. You get better savings if you are loyalty member or clip the virtual coupon in the store’s app.

Whenever you type in your phone number for a loyalty program, or see a promo code for a purchase, or even if you see a sale price for something, use that as a prayer prompt during this Easter season. First, take a moment to praise God for His willingness to send His Son, Jesus, to die in your place, to pay the cost for your sin. Pause and contemplate the painful experience Christ endured so you wouldn’t have to.

Secondly, we all have people in our lives that we know and love that haven’t received the gift of redemption that Jesus offers. Pray that this Easter is when they will finally accept the gift of salvation Jesus has to offer.

Worthy is the Lamb by Hillsong Worship

*Thank you for the cross, Lord; thank You for the price You paid;
Bearing all my sin and shame, in love You came, and gave amazing grace.*

*Thank You for this love, Lord; thank You for the nail-pierced hands; washed me
in Your cleansing flow, now all I know Your forgiveness and embrace.*

*Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne;
Crown You now with many crowns, You reign victorious.*

*High and lifted up, Jesus Son of God,
The Darling of Heaven crucified; worthy is the Lamb.*



This month as we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, may we never forget how much it cost for Him to redeem us from our sins!

Flourishing in the Word

Spend this month reading the gospel of Luke and be reminded of how Jesus came to redeem us from our sin.

April 1	Luke 1:1-45	April 16	Luke 12:35-59
April 2	Luke 1:46-80	April 17	Luke 13:1-35
April 3	Luke 2:1-52	April 18	Luke 14:1-35
April 4	Luke 3:1-38	April 19	Luke 15:1-32
April 5	Luke 4:1-44	April 20	Luke 16:1-31
April 6	Luke 5:1-39	April 21	Luke 17:1-37
April 7	Luke 6:1-49	April 22	Luke 18:1-43
April 8	Luke 7:1-50	April 23	Luke 19:1-48
April 9	Luke 8:1-21	April 24	Luke 20:1-47
April 10	Luke 8:22-56	April 25	Luke 21:1-38
April 11	Luke 9:1-36	April 26	Luke 22:1-38
April 12	Luke 9:37-62	April 27	Luke 22:39-65
April 13	Luke 10:1-42	April 28	Luke 22:55-23:25
April 14	Luke 11:1-54	April 29	Luke 23:26-56
April 15	Luke 12:1-34	April 30	Luke 24:1-53

Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

Colorado Springs, CO went on a “leaf peeping” in the mountains during the fall, enjoyed a picnic lunch and admired the colorful leaves. Perhaps do something similar during the spring—go and admire the spring blossoms.

Denver Citadel, CO had a program where a woman shared about her travels to Africa and Uganda.

Gilroy, CA studied *Help is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Max Lucado.

Kauluwela Mission, HI held a paint and sip (sparkling apple juice) night.

Seattle Temple, WA hosted an Ice Cream Social Fundraiser and raised \$700. They chose to use those funds to purchase water sanitation supplies, school supplies and fees, vocational training, a goat, transportation, agricultural training, medical supplies and a chicken for The Salvation Army’s work in impoverished countries.

Washougal, WA planned a thrift store shopping day, and hit 6 different stores. At each store they had different photo challenge such as the one wearing the craziest shoe, and find something shiny.

Women Preach Sunday

In honor of International Women’s Day (which was March 8, 2025), the USA Western Territory held its second annual “Woman Preach Day” on Sunday, March 2. The goal was to have as many pulpits as possible filled by women on that specific Sunday. This year, the event went National, as all four USA Territories celebrated Women Preach Sunday. Doing this nationally is a great opportunity to bring emphasis on women preachers and The Salvation Army’s special mandate and prophetic voice to women’s roles in ministries.

In our territory, 141 Corps and 3 Adult Rehabilitation Centers participated in this event. Both active and retired officers as

well as lay leaders spoke throughout the Territory. Lt. Kristin Boyd from the Chico, CA Corps stated, “Women covered all elements of the holiness meeting. Our Home league Secretary of many years, **Linda Valdez**, preached for the first time! It was a beautiful day celebrating our freedom to preach as women!”

Several corps included women and girls in all aspects of the worship service, besides the preaching. In Federal Way, WA teen girls led worship for the first time. **Sophia Reed**, daughter of Lt. **Emily Reed** (Prescott, AZ Corps) was featured in a video promotion the sermon for the week (checkout our website to see the video: <https://usw-womensministries.org/women-preach-sunday-2025/>) **Ivy Swain**, daughter of **Captain Jennifer Swain**, helped her mom preach at the San Diego Adult Rehabilitation Center, and then Captain Jennifer preached a second sermon at the El Cajon, CA Corps.

Captain Belle Green, from the Wrangell, AK Corps said this regarding Women Preach Sunday, “I don’t preach regularly. My heart desires to and I know that God has given me a voice He wants heard...This Sunday pushed me to preach and brought to the forefront of my mind the importance of me preaching more. Especially as I looked out at the teenage girls in the congregation. We are blessed to be in an egalitarian movement, and I think days like this helps remind us of that blessing, and encourage us not to take it for granted. I know after this Sunday I plan on being behind the pulpit much more.”

Next year, Women Preach Sunday will be on Sunday, March 1, 2026.



Top Row (L to R): Envoy Norma Rogers, Amanda Lobato, Mareah Makowski, Linda Valdez

Bottom Row: Envoy Lisa Sargent, Caroline Gardner, Envoy Samantha Wheeler, Mary Pandey



From Left to Right: Commissioner Colleen Riley, Colonel Genevera Vincent, Major Beth Desplancke



Top Row (L to R): Major Vicky Villanea, Captain Ryan Boyd, Captain Jamie Stokes, Captain Victoria Mercer, Major Esther Hsu, Major Adelma Braga

Second Row: Captain Joanna Wang, Lt. Emily Reed (and Baby Judah), Captain Yoon-Jung Lee, Captain Stacy Antonovich, Lt. Matilde Esparza, Major AnnMarguerite Jones

Third Row: Captain Leilani Armendariz, Major Cheryl Kinnamon, Major Tammy Ray, Captain Iliana Montes, Captain Diane Shatto, Lt. Andrielli Gonzalez

Bottom Row: Lt. Colonel Eda Hokom, Captain Ginifer Pack, , Major Elaine Wildman, Captain Dora Stearns, Lt. Stacie Faasavalu, Captain Loretta Dulay



Top Row (L to R): Captain Jeongmin Park, Captain Patricia Torres, Major Sybil Smith, Major Belsy Martinez, Major Regina Shull, Captain Elizabeth Gross

Second Row: Captain Omoduni George, Major Harryette Raihl, Captain Michelle Miranda, Major Barbara Wehnau, Captain Raghel Santiago, Captain Cynthia Escobar

Third Row: Major Toni Halstad, Captain Megan Trimmer, Captain Maureen Lawliss, Major Maria Romero, Captain Denise Litreal, Captain Gina Noble

Bottom Row: Captain Katrina Flemming, Captain Heather McBride, Captain Jessica Pearce, Captain Noel Evans, Major Gaylene Yardley, Captain Jennifer Bearchell, Captain Dana Walters



Top Row (L to R): Captain Shelby Qualls, Captain Hilda Parks, Captain Crystal Birks, Captain Stephanie Philpot, Major Shevaun Malone, Captain Erin Wikle

Middle Row: Major Jonnette Mulch, Lt. Sara Culley, Captain Jennifer Swain and her daughter Ivy, Captain Leslie Cyr, Captain Amber Ohl

Bottom Row: Major Jennifer Masango, Captain Maryellen Walters, Lt. Michele Dell'Olio, Major Rutendo Masango, Major Harryette Raihl and Major Jessica Doria

A Redemption Story

The story is told of a little boy who built a sailboat. He built the boat and had it all fixed up, tarred and painted. He took it to the lake and pushed it in hoping it would sail. Sure enough a wisp of breeze filled the little sail and it billowed and went rippling along the waves. Suddenly before the little boy knew it, the boat was out of his reach, even though he waded in fast and tried to grab it. As he watched it float away, he hoped maybe the breeze would shift and it would sail back to him. Instead he watched it go farther and farther until it was gone. When he went home crying, his mother asked, "What's wrong, didn't it work?" He said, "It worked too well."

Sometime later, the little boy was downtown and walked past a second hand store.

There in the window he saw the boat. It was unmistakably his, so he went in and said to the owner, "That's my boat." He walked to the window, picked it up and started to leave with it. The owner of the shop said, "Wait a minute, sonny. That's my boat. I bought it from someone." The boy said, "No, it's my boat. I made it. See." And he showed him the little scratches and the marks where he hammered and filed. The man said, "I'm sorry, boy. If you want it, you have to buy it."

The poor little guy didn't have any money, but he worked hard and saved his pennies. Finally, one day he had enough money. He went in and bought the little boat. As he left the store holding the boat close to him, he was heard saying, "You're my boat. You're twice my boat. First you're my boat because I made you, and second you're my boat because I bought you!"



"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them." Luke 1:68



Identity Statements

You are redeemed! Here are some identity statements for you to claim, memorize and meditate on.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:13-14

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. Ephesians 1:7-8a

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:18-19