

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of December 14, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Galatians 4:4-5 To Redeem Those Who Were Under the Law

In the Christian year, Advent is a time that helps us to remember Christ's first coming and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His second coming when He will return to redeem His creation and exercise His rule with all power and authority.

This Advent, we prepare for celebrating the birth of our Lord by considering God's great promises in Galatians 4:4-5. Each sermon and liturgy of the four Sundays of Advent will focus on a single phase from this text.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- What does it mean to "redeem"?
- How does the incarnation of Jesus Christ "redeem those who were under the law"?
- For this week's Call to Worship, we read Psalm 130:3-8. What does the Psalmist tell us about why we need a Redeemer?

"If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared...
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities."

• WEPC often uses historic confessions and creeds in worship as summary statements of the teachings of Scripture. This week, we read from the Heidelberg Confession Q&A 36 as our *Declaration of Faith*, and we see that we are redeemed by a Mediator. What is the role of a mediator? In what way is Jesus Christ our Mediator?

"How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you? He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness He removes from God's sight my sin – mine since I was conceived."

- Each Sunday, we confess our sins and hear Gospel encouragement from the Scripture. This week, sinners were blessed to hear Words of Encouragement based on Isaiah 40:1-2, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your warfare is ended; Your sins are pardoned; The penalty for your rebellion is paid." From what are we redeemed? If you believe this, how does it change the way you live?
- Pray together in light of this week's passage.

