

CLASSROOM APPLICATION



Instructor notes:

Distribute the following two handouts. Use this exercise to guide the students to become more conscious of the human need for redemption. Have the students complete part 1 in silence. Consider playing instrumental music as they work. You can have them complete part 2 as a class or in small groups.

Comment on Part 1: "If you agreed or strongly agreed with a number of these items, you are like most people. This brief exercise helps to remind us that none of us is self-sufficient; we are all in need of redemption. Now we will discuss the questions in part 2 of the exercise as a class (or in small groups)."

Continue the discussion by asking the students the following questions:

- Do you believe our world is in need of redemption? What might redemption look or feel like?
- Do you believe you need redemption? What does personal redemption look or feel like?

Conclude with these or similar words: "We profess Jesus continues to be with us, to walk with us on the journey of life, through the sacraments. In faith, we believe that Jesus has redeemed us through our Baptism. And we also believe that Jesus' presence and unconditional love continues to redeem us in the Eucharist. Finally, in faith we also believe that Christ will redeem us and carry us to our eternal home."



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The Meaning of Redemption: A Matter of Unconditional Love (Part 1)

The following survey provides an opportunity for you to identify some areas of your life that you feel you need help to improve. Part 1 of this exercise is strictly personal; however, your reflections will help you with the group exercise that follows in part 2. Place a check mark in the box that best describes how you feel about each statement.

I need help with...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
believing that I am an intelligent person.					
doing my best in school.					
expressing myself clearly.					
making friends.					
gaining respect from my peers.					
gaining respect from adults.					
feeling good about my appearance.					
showing my love and affection to others.					
liking myself.					
treating my friends better.					
respecting my body.					
dealing with sexual issues.					
trusting people.					
loving others as they deserve.					
depending on God for more help.					



The Meaning of Redemption: A Matter of Unconditional Love (Part 2)

Allow the students 10 minutes to individually answer all the discussion questions. When time is up, lead a large-group discussion soliciting answers to the following questions. Use your own follow-up questions to make it a conversation and not just reporting answers. "Say more about that ..." is a great way to invite students to dig a little deeper.

- Do you believe that love is gaining ground in our time? Give evidence for your answer.
- Describe anything you have experienced or read about that you believe has stifled or continues to stifle love or faithfulness.
- Describe anything you have experienced or read about that has nurtured love or faithfulness.
- If Jesus were in this room, inviting you to request anything you need to make the world a more loving and faithful place, what would you ask for?
- Do you think we need God's presence and help to positively change the world?
- Do you think that people in general are in need of redemption? What might redemption look like? Explain.