12/20: Devotion Guide

(Q20 — Who is the Redeemer?)

Prep (10 mins)

Read through this material: Q20. It'll give you some great background to help lead a discussion.

Opening Discussion (5 mins)

At Christmas, we celebrate Emmanuel—God with us (Matt 1:23). But if we didn't have a Redeemer, the idea of God being with us would be scary. Why? Because Jesus is the righteous Judge (Acts 17:31) and the consequence of sin is death (Rom 6:23). But at Christmas we celebrate because God didn't come to earth to judge us for our sins, but save us from our sins (Matt 1:21).

Jesus is the redeemer! He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

The New City Catechism says, "The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ." This is why the gospel is called *the* Good News. The truth that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus is not just one way to eternal life; it is the only way (John 14:6).

Without Jesus, every path we could take led to trouble. But Galatians 4:4-5 says, "When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

The truth is that everyone will encounter God in the courtroom: either for judgment or adoption. When we celebrate Christmas, our reason for celebrating is that Jesus came to redeem.

Bible Reading (5 mins)

Read Romans 6:23. If you have little kids (pre-readers), just read and explain.

Bible Questions (5 mins):

- What did Jesus come to save us from? (the wages of sin)
- Who paid the price for our sins? (Jesus came to die in our place.)
- How does it make you feel to know that God sent Jesus so that you could be forgiven and have eternal life with Him? How does that affect how you think about Christmas?

Pray (3 mins): Again, take a few minutes to thank God for Jesus: our only Redeemer! He didn't come to judge us, but to save us. (Encourage others to pray too.)