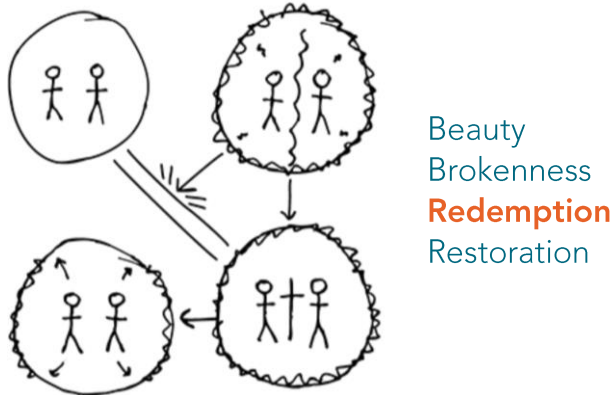


VIDEO 3:

Redemption

THE FOUR CIRCLES



VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Use this space to take down a few notes on things that stood out to you from the video.

NAME (in order of appearance)	NOTES
SEAN (African American)	
TODD (German American)	
CHARLENE (Ghanaian)	
ELEANOR (Asian American, Filipino)	
NOEMI (Mexican American)	
ANDREW (German, Scottish, Irish, English, Armenian)	
JULIE (Swiss German American)	
MEGAN (Native American, Irish, Scottish)	
LEAH (Puerto Rican, Italian, Polish)	
KAITLIN (Chinese American)	

BIBLICAL REFLECTION: Luke 18:9–14 [NIV]

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

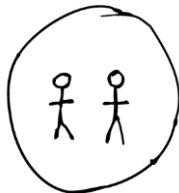
¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

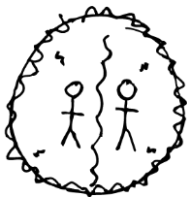
RESPONDING TO JESUS

Jesus wants to amplify the beauty and heal the brokenness in each of our ethnic stories. Receiving such healing moves us past colorblindness into an ethnicity-aware, reconciling community. He is inviting each of us into his story of redemption.

REVIEWING THE GOSPEL



Beauty. We are all created in the image of God. He made us with purpose, dignity, and beauty. We were designed to live in peace with one another, enjoying the unique characteristics of every people group, and learning from one another, with God at the center of our relationships.



Brokenness. But that is not the world we are living in today. We thought we could do better if we put ourselves at the center of the story, shoving God to the side. The results have been disastrous. Today, our world is clearly divided and hurting. Our ethnic journeys include the story of this pain, both the past and the present. The brokenness is not just external—it’s also within each of us. We carry scars from things that people have said and done, or not done to us. Our scars end up damaging others, causing more pain as we tolerate, or even participate in, systems that oppress people.



Redemption. But God did not turn away, leaving us in our brokenness. Jesus took our personal sin and our world’s sin into the grave with him when he died on the cross. And he defeated sin by coming back to life, proving that death and destruction do not have the final say. Jesus came to heal us, to affirm the beauty of how he made us, to free us from the damage of brokenness done to us and by us, by individuals and system—and to pardon us for the part we’ve played in that mess. Our broken ethnic stories become healed and redeemed as we follow Jesus. He helps us embrace our ethnic stories and offers us new hearts and new love to reconcile with each other and work towards restoration.



Restoration. As God heals us, he’s not satisfied with our individual transformation alone. Jesus leads us toward restoring relationships, repairing communities, and seeking justice. He breaks our chains of apathy, fear, and pain, and he sends us out to help break others’ chains as well. And he invites us to share God’s story with others. Our restored ethnic stories help bring healing and restoration to our communities and to our world.

To follow Jesus is to trust him with our personal and collective pain and brokenness, and to trust that by defeating death, he has the power to make all things right.

INVITATION TO RESPOND

Let's take some next steps in response to what we have been learning. Each of us may be in a different place in how we connect our ethnic story and God's story. That is fine. No matter where we find ourselves today, God is inviting us to go deeper into his story of redemption. Which of these 3 invitations do you want to respond to?

1. **The call to forgive.** In Matthew 6:12, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, "And forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who have sinned against us" (ISV). To experience God's forgiveness requires that we forgive others. Forgiveness is not optional as we follow Jesus. Which individuals and groups of people do you need to forgive?
2. **The call to share this story of Jesus as Reconciler.** We will take a moment for listening prayer. Please ask God who else around you needs to hear this message of hope. With whom can you share the gospel this week?
3. **The invitation to adult faith in Jesus.** Some of us are ready to make a new faith decision. Are you willing to say "yes" to following Jesus for yourself, to be healed, forgiven, and transformed by him in all of who you are, including your ethnic story? Will you say "yes" to him?

On the cross, Jesus paid for all the debts of the world. And because Jesus rose again, we can start over. If you are ready, please pray this prayer:

"God, I believe Jesus is your Son, the Savior of the world. I believe he died on the cross for me and took away all my sins, paying the cost for all of us. I believe in my heart that you raised Jesus from the dead and that he is alive today. I ask that you forgive me for the wrongs that I have done. I receive your forgiveness into my life. By faith, I submit all parts of my life to Jesus as King. Please change me; make me the person you want me to be. I commit to being a member of your family on earth, pursuing your purposes and mission for the world. I give you my heart; I give you my life; I want to know you more! In Jesus' name, Amen."

ACTIVE RESPONSE

>>Commit to a Small Group.

If you are not already part of a small group, join one. Faith grows and is lived out in community.

Stretch Goal – Share the Story.

Think of one person who would benefit from hearing about how God's story intersects with our ethnic journeys. Meet up with him/her and share your story in light of God's story! Maybe share the videos with them.