

Growing Deeper
Flipping the Iceberg

Week Two: *The Grace of Redemption*
Revelation 21:1-5

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. If you could change anything about your life, what would it be?
2. Read Revelation 21:1-5. What does John (the writer) see and hear?
3. What does this tell you about God?
4. What does this tell you about people? Yourself?
5. Which verses give you hope? Try to memorize at least one of them by saying it to yourself as you begin each day.
6. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Praise God for his transforming power and love. Take time to listen to “Beautiful Things.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1spkhp4lig4>

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Redemption is not a word we use often in everyday conversation. What do you think it means?
8. Look up the word “redeem” in several dictionaries. Which definition fits your experience with God?
9. Both the Old and New Testaments declare that God redeems or “buys back” people. Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. How would you describe the “empty way of life” from which we were redeemed?
10. Read Revelation 21:1-5. What is God redeeming in these verses?
11. God not only rescues and restores people but also creation, circumstances, relationships, attitudes, pain, etc. End your FIFTEEN contemplating what you would like redeemed. Talk to God about it. Ask God for his help to surrender to his perfect redemptive plan and timing. Listen to “It is Well.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1spkhp4lig4>

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

12. As we observe Lent, what does Jesus' death and resurrection mean to you?
13. Read Revelation 21:1-5 again. What things are no longer in this passage?
14. Which of these did Jesus experience in his time on earth? (Note: Many commentators believe that "sea" symbolizes chaos and destruction.)
15. How does Jesus' experience of these things give you comfort and hope?
16. Why does Jesus' resurrection assure us that death, mourning, crying, and pain will be gone?
17. In verse 5 God says, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." How can we be sure?
18. Listen to the song "Beauty from Ashes" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_ytq3sSk3Mt) to end your FIFTEEN. Praise Jesus for giving his life to buy all things back.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

19. What is the newest thing you own? What do you like about new things?
20. Read Revelation 21:1-5. What new things are mentioned in the passage?
21. Which of these is most exciting to you?
22. What does God promise in verse 5? Notice the verb tense.
23. How has God started making things new in your life?
24. If God were to prevent our disasters and pain, we would never see how powerful and good he is. Instead, God uses all of it. Nothing is wasted. End your FIFTEEN asking God to transform the broken things in your life into something new and beautiful. Listen to "Glorious Ruins." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIxrKoEHyW0>

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

25. What does God declare in Revelation 21:3?
26. In Genesis 1-3 we learn that in the beginning God lived and walked among his people. Read Genesis 3:1-8. What broke that relationship?
27. When did God come and live and walk among his people again? Read John 1:14 for help.
28. How does God dwell with his people now? See John 14:16-17.
29. How do you see the Spirit of God transforming things already?
30. In the end, God will again dwell with his people in his fullness. But we don't have to wait until then for him to turn our "coal into diamonds." Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. The new has already come! End your FIFTEEN in praise and thanksgiving for the grace of redemption. Celebrate with the song "My Redeemer Lives."
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj_Bv1YFyEg