

GIG Week 2

KINTSUKUROI POTTERY



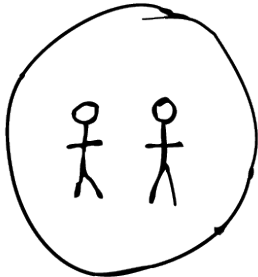
REDEMPTION VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Use this space to take down a few notes on the video.

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

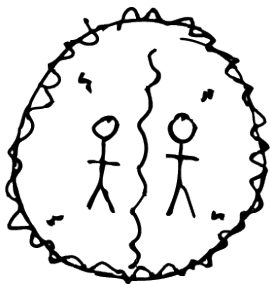
JESUS THE RECONCILER

Last week, we discussed the first two parts of our ethnic journey: allowing Jesus to 1. amplify the beauty and 2. heal the brokenness in each of our ethnic stories, no matter our ethnicity. Receiving such healing moves us past colorblindness into an ethnicity-aware, reconciling community. He is inviting each of us into his story of redemption. Today, we want to discuss the final two parts. Let's review God's plan to heal our ethnic journey.

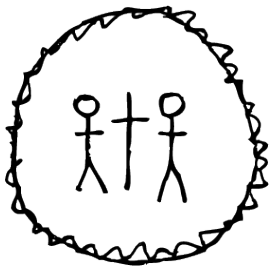


THE GOSPEL

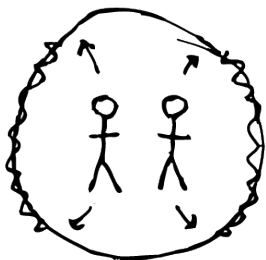
We are all created in the image of God. He made us with purpose, dignity, and **beauty**. We were designed to live in peace with one another, enjoying the unique characteristics of every people group, and learning from one another, with God at the center of our relationships.



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, past and present. The **brokenness** is not just external; it's also within each of us. We carry scars from things that people have said, 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.



God did not turn away, leaving us stuck in our brokenness. Jesus took our personal sin and our world's sin into the grave with him. He defeated and redeemed it by coming back to life, proving that death & destruction do not have the final say. Jesus came to heal us, to affirm the beauty of how he made us, and to free us from the damage of brokenness done to us and by us, by individuals and systems—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.



As he 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 of **restoration** 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

As we wrap up our time together, let's not just be people who talk about issues, let's be people who do something about them. Here are two responses God may be calling us to:

1. **The invitation to share this story of Jesus as Reconciler.** We hope you are experiencing Jesus' healing in your story. Just like the Samaritan woman's experience of Jesus moved her to share her story with others, we hope you are sensing Jesus' invitation for you to do the same. Let's take a moment and do 30 seconds of listening prayer. Listening prayer is simply an opportunity to be quiet before God. In a moment, please ask God silently, "Who else around me needs to hear this message of hope? With whom can I share the good news of Jesus this week?"
2. **The invitation to follow Jesus.** The Samaritan woman is a story about a thirsty person getting her deepest needs met and her scars healed by Jesus. We all are thirsty and need Jesus' living water. Some of us are ready to take the next step today and invite Jesus to meet our deepest needs and heal our scars. Jesus is present here today, because he rose from the dead, and he is extending for us the same invitation that he offered this woman. What would it take for you 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. Our scars and brokenness can be transformed by his love and power. 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."



NEXT STEPS

COMMIT TO A SMALL GROUP.

Continue learning by joining a Small Group Bible Study. Faith is not a solo activity. It is a team effort. Please join our team and let's grow in faith together.