



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 8: Redeems

Suggested Week of Use: July 23, 2023

Core Passage: Jeremiah 31:23-34

News Story Summary

Tim and Melinda O'Brien celebrated their 40th anniversary last month by staying at the Kansas City Marriott. Their room rate—\$38 a night—was identical to the rate they paid back in 1983 when they spent their honeymoon at the hotel, then known as the Muehlebach. This was possible because Tim found a 40-year-old gift certificate tucked away among some mementos and old photos. It was a “Lifetime Honeymoon Certificate” from the Muehlebach, guaranteeing the 1983 rate whenever the O'Briens stayed at the hotel during their anniversary month. Even though Marriott took over the Muehlebach property years ago, Tim decided to see if the company would let them use the voucher. He emailed an image of the coupon to the hotel's managing director, who agreed to honor the certificate—with some added surprises for the O'Briens. For example, the hotel decorated the room for their anniversary and invited them back for a dinner at a later date. “This time, we definitely won't wait for 40 years to redeem the offer,” Tim said.

For more about this story, search “40-year-old hotel voucher.”

Focus Attention

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *When have you tried to redeem a coupon only to find out it had expired?* Affirm that it would be great if gift cards and special offers never expired. Share the story of Tim and Melinda O'Brien. Point out that it's encouraging when we see an individual or a company make good on their promises—even when they might have a solid reason for backing out. Explain that in this session, God made a promise through Jeremiah to redeem His people and to honor His covenant with them. Note that Israel had given God plenty of reasons to cancel His covenant with them, but He remained faithful.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the group about the O'Brien's hotel experience. Ask: *In that situation, what blessing was promised? How did the hotel come through?* Share that their experience is a great illustration of what God does for us on a much larger scale. Point out that the hotel went the extra mile for the O'Briens, but we really can't begin to imagine the lengths God goes to redeem His people. Say: *The best indicator we have is God's willingness to send His Son to die for us.* Close the session with a prayer, thanking God for His blessings, His promise of restoration, and His faithfulness to His covenant.