

Bought with a Price – Given a Purpose

Bible Study • Leader Guide

Please provide a copy of this study and a Bible for each participant.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we prepare to study Your Word, we ask that You grant us wisdom and understanding, as promised through Your Holy Spirit. Help us to humbly receive the truths revealed to us through the Scriptures and through the discussions that follow. We pray boldly in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Redeemer. Amen.

Discussion:

What would you consider the most precious thing you have (or had) in your house that you bought or were given? Do not include people or pets, the Bible, or any variations of the cross. Why is it precious to you? Share your responses.

Allow time for people to respond. Perhaps offer an example of a family heirloom, piece of jewelry, or a picture drawn by one of your children.

Have you ever considered yourself as a treasure or a precious possession? What do the following verses have to say about you?

Deuteronomy 7:6:

holy to the Lord, chosen, treasured possession.

Jeremiah 31:2–3:

grace in wilderness; Lord appeared; I have loved you with an everlasting love.

Zephaniah 3:17:

God in your midst; who will save; he exults — rejoices — over you with loud singing.

2 Peter 2:4, 9:

the Lord knows how to rescue the godly — you!

Discuss how we can be considered “godly.”

Bought with a Price

Our theme verse, 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, is part of Paul’s discussion about how God’s people are to think of themselves.

How do we usually think about people being “bought?”

Many will think of slavery, but accept other ideas like crime bosses or pro-team draft picks.

What does it mean to you that God has paid for you?

By Him paying for me, I become His property, His possession. It could mean that He would take care of me because I am His.

Read the following verses to help your understanding of being “bought with a price.”

What is the price God has paid for you?

Galatians 3:13:

Jesus took the curse meant for me in His death on the cross.

Galatians 4:4–5:

God sent His Son to fulfill the law for me so I could be His adopted child.

1 Peter 1:17–19:

Knowing the price paid for our salvation — the precious blood of Jesus — the way we live will reflect the value of His sacrifice.

Titus 2:13–14:

Jesus gave himself for us — willingly, to make us pure for God and ready for His work.

Why did God pay the price for you? (Hint: John 3:16)

Pure love for His people because you are His creation.

Living with Purpose

Discussion:

Where or when have you felt appreciated? How did such affirmation affect your behavior?
How was your feeling of being valued connected with the words from 1 Corinthians 6:19–20?

Be sure to lead participants to think about how we respond to the One who gives us that sense of value — namely God!

In our theme verse, Paul indicates that you are not your own because you were bought with a price. What does it mean for you?

Answers will vary.

Encourage participants to write their thoughts down for later review.

Read the following verses.

What is God's purpose in redeeming you?

John 15:16:

We are to bear lasting fruit as His friends — inviting others to know His love.

Romans 14:8:

Live and die for the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:15–19:

So we can be His ministers of reconciliation, bringing others into His family.

Ephesians 1:7–10:

So we can be recipients of the unity He creates in His people, and part of the expression of His unity to the world.

Ephesians 2:10:

Do good works as you walk with God.

Ephesians 3:8–11:

Make God's wisdom known.

Colossians 3:12–17:

To exemplify the attributes of God and to thankfully share the truths you receive.

1 Peter 2:4–5, 9, 16–17:

To be part of a spiritual house, proclaiming what He has done, serving Him and loving others.

Is there an overall message about God’s plan for His people in these verses? Write out, and then share your understanding of this plan.

Encourage participants to consider why God would entrust His work to us.

What important reminder do you find in 1 Corinthians 1:27–29?

It’s all God’s wisdom, strength, and power.

Read Romans 12:1–2.

What do you think Paul meant by asking us to present ourselves as living sacrifices?

If some seem to struggle with this, lead them to think about letting go of trying to control our lives and trusting God to lead and provide us with what is needed to accomplish His will.

Why does he command that we not be conformed to this world?

We would be the same as the world, and unable to draw attention to God’s goodness.

Who transforms us, and what benefit do we receive?

God Himself effects the change, and we are led to a greater understanding of His purpose and what is good in His eyes.

Compare Paul’s concept of us as living sacrifices to the idea of us being “not our own.”

As God’s own children, purchased with the sacrifice of His Son, we learn to give up our self-centered way of life and work to do what brings Him honor and leads other people to come to know Him.

Read aloud together our theme verse for this study:

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

Share any new or refreshed understanding of your value to God, or what you have learned about how you can “glorify God in your body.”

How might these thoughts and insights lead to any changes in how you approach each day, and how you will relate to others? _____

If one passage of Scripture has been most meaningful in this new view, please share which one and how it has affected you.

Encourage participants to write verses on a sticky note or a 3 x 5 card and work to memorize them.

Closing Prayer: Lord God, as we digest all that we have read, heard, and discussed, we ask You to help us to hold on to the wonderful truth of Your love for us. Strengthen us through Your Word and lead us to discover each day Your plans for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

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