

A woman with blonde hair is wearing a long, flowing red dress with a white lace collar and a fitted bodice. She is standing against a light-colored, textured background.

OVER A MILLION COPIES IN PRINT

*Redeeming  
A NOVEL  
Love*

FRANCINE  
RIVERS

20<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

Dear Reader,

We hope you have enjoyed Francine Rivers's novel *Redeeming Love*. This timeless story of love between God and man reminds us of the deep well within us that cries out to be filled with unconditional, redeeming love. As always, it is Francine's desire for you, the reader, to find the answers to life's incredible circumstances from God's Word through a personal relationship with Him. The following study guide is intended to whet your appetite and encourage you on your journey. There are three sections in each lesson:

- DISCUSSION—the story and the characters
- DISCOVERIES—God's principles and character
- DECISIONS—reflection on the characters and self

In Romans 8:28 we read, “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them” (NLT). Angel eventually realized God's call in her life and discovered the good He had for her. Sarah and Michael learned to deal with all that life dealt them through their belief in God's faithfulness and His unfailing love. May you realize God's call in your life and find the joy and goodness He has for you. May He bless you as you seek the answers for life from His Word.

*Peggy Lynch*

## *Rejected*

*He [Jesus] was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised, and we did not care.*

ISAIAH 53:3

### DISCUSSION

1. How was Sarah/Angel rejected and betrayed? What were her earliest experiences with God and/or the church?
2. What experience did Michael have with rejection or betrayal? Contrast Michael's and Angel's examples in coping with life's circumstances.
3. Who else in the story suffered from rejection or betrayal, and how did they cope?
4. Which character do you identify with the most and why?
5. Describe a time when you were rejected or betrayed. To whom did you turn and why?

### DISCOVERIES

*You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God!*

PSALM 139:15–17

1. Where was God when you were born? How does that make you feel? What else do you learn about God from these verses?

2. How would you relate these verses to Angel? Relate these same verses to yourself.

## DECISIONS

*God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

ROMANS 8:28

1. When Angel experienced rejection and betrayal, was God calling her? What good was He working in her life?
2. When you have faced rejection or betrayal, was God calling you? What good has He worked in your life in relation to those circumstances?

## *Resignation*

*Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success.*

PROVERBS 15:22

*People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.*

PROVERBS 16:2

## DISCUSSION

1. Which scene do you feel best shows how Angel was resigned to relying on no one but herself? What events caused her to do so? Why do you think she never cried out to God?
2. Contrast Michael with Angel in regard to authority.

3. Describe Miriam's relationship with God. Why were her attitudes and beliefs so different from Angel's?
4. On whom do you rely and why?

#### DISCOVERIES

*He [God] will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them. He will save them from oppression and from violence, for their lives are precious to him.*

PSALM 72:12-14

1. What do you learn about God's character from these verses?
2. What is our part in experiencing God's help? What holds you back?
3. Discuss the characters in light of these verses.

#### DECISIONS

*God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

ROMANS 8:28

1. In what ways was God calling Angel while she was relying only on herself? What good was He working?
2. In what ways has God been calling you, regardless of whom you rely on? How is He working good for you through that process?

## *Rescued*

*Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will preserve me against the anger of my enemies. You will clench your fist against my angry enemies! Your power will save me. The LORD will work out his plans for my life—for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me.*

PSALM 138:7–8

### DISCUSSION

1. Who helped Michael escape his past? In what ways was he rescued?
2. Angel repeatedly tried to escape her circumstances. Describe the various plans.
3. Contrast Hosea, the slave who helped Michael, with the slave dealer Duke.
4. Discuss Michael's rescue of Angel from the hand of Magowan.
5. Why do you think Angel returned to her former ways?
6. From what or whom are you trying to escape and why?
7. What causes you to return to old habits?

### DISCOVERIES

*For “Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*

ROMANS 10:13–14

1. How would you apply these verses to Angel? According to these verses, why had she never cried out to God? Who was responsible?
2. What keeps you from crying out to God? What can you do about it now?

## DECISIONS

*God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

ROMANS 8:28

1. List any ways in which God was calling Angel at this juncture in her life.
2. Can you see the good He was working around her? List it.
3. What about your life? How has God rescued you? How has He called you and worked good through that?

## *Redeemed*

*He [Jesus] gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.*

TITUS 2:14

## DISCUSSION

1. Angel was bought and sold on numerous occasions. What was different about Michael's redeeming her? Discuss the role of trust (or lack of trust) in Angel.

2. When Michael and Angel helped the Altman family, what did Angel learn about Michael? Herself? God?
3. Describe the changes in actions and thinking that took place after Angel was rescued a second time by Michael. What do you think caused the changes?
4. What trust issues do you have? Who has God placed in your life as positive examples?

#### DISCOVERIES

*God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

1. List everything you learn about salvation from these verses.
2. What is God's part? What is your part?
3. Apply this passage to Angel.
4. How is God creating you anew?

#### DECISIONS

*God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

ROMANS 8:28

1. How do you see God's call in Angel's life by this point? What specifically does she discover for herself?

2. List some of the good that is happening in her life.
3. What specific discoveries have you made for yourself regarding God's call?
4. List some of the good that is happening in your life.

## *Reconciled*

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*

ROMANS 12:1-2

### DISCUSSION

1. What caused Angel to leave yet again?
2. How is this different from before?
3. Why was it necessary for Paul to be the one to find Angel?
4. What did he learn about himself? How did this help him?
5. What did Angel learn through this experience?
6. What was Michael learning through this difficult time?
7. Is there someone who needs to be reconciled with you? Or, do you need to be the one who does the reconciling, like Paul did? Explain.

## DISCOVERIES

*Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.*

1 PETER 4:8

*So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.*

1 PETER 5:6-7

1. What covers sin? To what extent?
2. What does God do for those who humble themselves before him? Why?
3. How would you apply these verses to the characters—which characters, and why?
4. How does pride hold you back from experiencing peace and forgiveness?

## DECISIONS

*God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

ROMANS 8:28

1. How has God's call affected Angel's life now?
2. Describe the good that now flows from her life.
3. Is God's calling having its full effect on your life? Why or why not?
4. What good are you sharing with others?

## *Restoration*

*In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.*

1 PETER 5:10

### DISCUSSION

1. What steps had Angel taken to restore her spirit?
2. What were the lasting effects of Angel's soul search?
3. What steps did Angel take to restore her marriage? How did Michael respond?
4. In what ways did God reward Sarah and Michael?
5. What have you learned about the love of a man for a woman?
6. What have you learned about the love of God for all mankind—including you?

### DISCOVERIES

*And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. . . . By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.*

EPHESIANS 3:17-20

1. How would you describe God's love from these verses? What does He offer us?
2. How did Sarah and Michael discover this to be true for their lives?
3. What does God want to do for you? What does He want from you?

#### DECISIONS

*God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

ROMANS 8:28

1. How would you sum up God's call in the life of Angel/Sarah? Describe the progress made in her life that was good from God's hand.
2. Go back and look at your own progress. How would you sum up God's call in your life?
3. What progress has been made that you can attribute to God working good in you?

May God continue to work good in your life as you continue to respond to His call.