



REDEMPTION, SECOND CHANCES, AND BASKETBALL

with Matt Bostic

▶ FOCUS VERSE

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners
Isaiah 61:1

▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. Can you think of a time in your life—it may be right now—when you were desperately seeking a second chance?**
 - a. What were the circumstances that caused you to seek redemption?
 - b. Describe your thoughts and feelings from that period in your life.
- 2. What form were you hoping that redemption would take, and how did you go about looking for it?**
 - a. Who was the person (or people) who ultimately helped you find a shot at that redemption?
 - b. Did it come as a surprise that they were the people offering you grace?
- 3. When you meet or hear about someone who's recently been released from prison, what are the first thoughts, positive or negative, that you have about that person?**



- a. Did Matt’s stories of formerly incarcerated people working hard and turning their lives around cause you to think differently about those people?
 - b. Did you identify at all with their search for redemption—and with the “scarlet letters” they wear that cause some people to refuse to give them a second chance?
- 4. In discussing Life House’s core values, Matt says that spiritual connectivity, connections with/service to a community, and career advancement are the three most important factors in an ex-convict re-entering civil society and becoming self-sustaining.**
- a. Do you feel like you’re currently falling short in any of those areas?
 - b. What are some ways you could seek new opportunities for growth?
- 5. Have you ever tried so hard to help someone that it caused your own life to suffer—in terms of mental/physical health, finances, or even the amount of time you were able to devote to work or loved ones?**
- a. If you had to do it all over again, what might you do differently to maintain a better sense of balance?
- 6. Thinking about how Matt’s love of basketball inspired the “Shoot for Life House Challenge,” do you have any special talents or interests that you might be able to use to do some good for a charitable cause?**
- a. Do other people know about these talents/interests, or have you largely kept them hidden?
 - b. If you’ve been keeping them under wraps, why do you think you’ve done that?
- 7. What’s a blessing you enjoy in your life right now that at one point you didn’t think would be possible—or that you didn’t think you deserved?**
- a. How did that blessing go from an impossible dream to a reality?

