

11 CALIFORNIANS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THREE: FREEDOM

Either with a group or on your own, use the following questions to explore Bible passages and apply insights from the video session.

What stood out to you from the video?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

1. What pictures come to mind when you hear the word “freedom?” What does that word mean to you? On the other hand, what are some ways in which people misuse the word “freedom” today?

2. In these verses, Paul uses the image of a “veil” to represent the difference between who we think God is and who He actually is. How can seeing the truth about God and learning more about Him bring us freedom?

3. What are some subtle and subversive ways by which people lose their freedom in our world today? How do others sneakily try to entrap us?

4. In these verses, we see that the Israelites in the Old Testament had hardened hearts, which kept them from lives of freedom. How does the process of softening your heart and being transformed into the likeness of Christ help us find freedom?

5. Share how you have witnessed the Spirit of God bring freedom to your life and the lives of others.

Read Romans 6:15-23

6. Imagine a friend has read these verses and has asked you to explain the meaning of this phrase: "slave to righteousness." How would you explain the words of Paul here? How can you be free and a slave at the same time?

7. Without using names, share an example of someone who seems free on the outside but is still enslaved to sin. What do they seem like? What do they sound like?

8. Describe how a believer can be free from sin and still tempted to sin. How can believers today be free from sin in a world bent on tempting us at every moment?

DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Galatians 5:13-26

9. In these verses, we see examples of living by the sinful nature and examples of living by the Spirit. List out the attributes of each lifestyle. How do we move from living by the list of the sinful nature to the list of the Spirit?

10. How does the act of loving your neighbor set you free? What is the difference between serving others in love and being enslaved to the wishes of others?

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM

Either in a group or on your own, use this prayer to help you visualize and talk to God about what is holding you down or keeping you from the full experience of the Christian life. On its own, this prayer will not bring freedom immediately. It is simply a useful tool for your journey toward finding freedom in Christ.

1. Either aloud or silently, read these words from 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Repeat those words over and over for a few moments as you breathe in and out.

2. Enter your first prayer posture by crossing your wrists in front of you, one on top of the other, to symbolize being imprisoned or shackled by something. Speak to the Lord about what is making you feel entrapped or enchained. Close this section of prayer by imagining the Lord walking up to you with a key and unlocking whatever is holding you down.

3. Enter your next prayer posture by uncrossing your wrists and raising your hands with your palms up to the sky. Use this time to recall three distinct moments in the past when the Lord has rescued or delivered you. Focus on as many details as possible. Speak to the Lord about how He has brought you freedom.

4. Enter your final prayer posture by placing your hands upon your heart. Speak to the Holy Spirit, who lives within you. Thank Him for the freedom He has given you in the past and the strength to find freedom in the present from whatever holds you back.

***You have been set free from
sin and have become slaves to
righteousness.***

ROMANS 6:18
