



FOR GROUPS MEETING: March 2-7

SERIES: Freedom

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

If someone were asked to say one word that describes America or what it means to be an American a common answer would be freedom. We live in a culture and a society which is obsessed with this idea of freedom. We have our freedom of speech and our freedom to protest. If you venture into the great state of Texas you will hear a lot about the freedom to bear arms. The trouble is that for a people obsessed with Freedom we very rarely live free in our day to day.

In our next series we are exploring how the Gospel frees us from a variety of things in our lives that would love to hold us captive. This week we will be specifically looking at how the gospel frees us from a fear of God's rejection. The passage we will be looking at also lists many benefits of the relationship we have been given in Christ. We will see how the work of Jesus should allow us to live in freedom.

Dig Deeper

Some people would like to go deeper in their study. If you would like to do so and have the time, please take advantage of the Dig Deeper sections of this Group Life lesson.

TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK'S STUDY

- You will need:
 - A Bible
 - A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
 - A pencil or a pen
- Read the **Introduction to Study**.
- Move through the daily studies consecutively.
- Open and close each day in prayer.
- Meditate on each question as you feel led.
- Record your answers in the space to the right of each day's questions.
- If you miss a day, don't worry. Simply pick up where you left off.
- If you are in a small group, strive to have all



(day 1)

Prayer: Lord please help me to not fear rejection from you, but let me remember how your work should free me from this.

Intro: *One things that can hamper our walk in Christ is an unhealthy fear that God will reject us if we do something wrong. A proper understanding of Romans 5 should free us from this. This week we will analyze why we don't need to fear this through the various reasons listed in this passage.*

Read: Romans 5:1-11

1.) Before we study any further what are some of the reasons why you think we don't need to fear rejection from God.

2.) Are there any times in your life that you might feel like God rejects you or has rejected you in the past?

DIGGING DEEPER:

If you would like a great resource to help you study better the Book of Romans the best commentary on the market can be found here:

<http://www.amazon.com/Epistle-Romans-International-Commentary-Testament/dp/0802823173>



(day 2)

Prayer: Lord today help me to learn what it truly means to be justified in Christ.

Intro: *In Romans 3 Paul talks about how we are saved through faith in the work of God, in Romans 4 Paul shows that this has always been the case and now in Romans 5 Paul is going to list the benefits of justification (Justification meaning being declared righteous in the eyes of God through the work of Jesus)*

Read: Romans 5:1

1.) Paul starts this section with a declarative statement “therefore since we have been justified”. What does this statement seem to say about our salvation in the eyes of God? Are we temporarily made righteous and it’s on us to keep ourselves that way or has our right standing been paid for and sealed?

2.) What does the Bible state is the first benefit of Jesus’ work ? (Hint: the last part of verse 1) What should this do to our fear of rejection.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read John 16

Take note of Jesus’ usage of the word peace. How can Jesus’ words here apply to what is being said in Romans 5?



(day 3)

Prayer: Lord help me to understand what it means to have access.

Read: Romans 5:2

Intro: *The fear of God rejecting us ultimately can be boiled down to an issue of access. Will God turn His back on us and not allow us access to Him because of a fault of our own?*

1.) How did we obtain access to God?

2.) If the way we gained access to God is through the work of Jesus, is there any reason that we should worry that a mistake of ours will overpower his work?

DIGGING DEEPER:

For a beautiful picture of what this looked like read in your study bibles (or on an online study bible) Matthew 27:51.

How does this add to the teaching of the way we have access?



(day 4)

Prayer: Lord help me to see that because of Jesus we can hope in hard times.

Intro: *Another time that we as Christians commonly feel that God has abandoned or rejected us is when times in life get hard, this passage addresses this as well.*

Read: Romans 5:3-5

1.) Thanks to the work of Jesus what does this passage state the we can do in tough times? Why?

2.) How does this help us see why sometimes God might allow hard seasons in our life?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read James 1:2-4

How does what James says here line up with Paul's words?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me lastly to see that I do not need to fear God because he didn't reject me.

Read: Romans 5:6-10

1.) According to this passage How did God show His love for us?

2.) Why should this truth allow us to know that God won't reject us?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

How does this passage show that God has chosen us and as a result we shouldn't fear rejection?

