



FOR GROUPS MEETING: March 9-14

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 that are 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 lives.

In our 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 our guilt and shame over our pasts. We often believe that we are defined by the presence of lack of skeletons in our closets. We will see how in Jesus, we have been set free from shame or guilt over sins He has taken care of by His payment on the cross for our sins so that we can live abundantly and free.

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:
 - o A Bible
 - o A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
 - o 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.



(day 1)

Prayer: Lord, this week I want to pray like David did that you would simply, yet profoundly, open my eyes so that I may see the wondrous things in your Word.

Read: Romans 5:12-21

1.) We will be doing a lot of study in this section of scripture this week but before we break down this section, give an overview of what you have learned from the book of Romans over the past few weeks.

2.) Why do you think Christians sometimes still carry guilt and shame over past sins even though the Bible says Jesus died to set us free from the penalty of these offenses?

DIGGING DEEPER:

The Book of Romans was written as a letter to the church in Rome. Tradition states that when the church received this letter, the church leader would read it out aloud from beginning to end. The Benefit of doing this is that the overall message of the letter is best understood when it is read as a whole. We rarely do that these days, and as a result I think we might miss out on some of the beauty and richness of this book.

Read Romans 1-16

What do you think is the driving argument Paul is making in this book?



(day 2)

Prayer: Lord thank you for Jesus who has rescued me from a life destined for death because of my sin.

Intro: *In this section of Romans 5, Paul is teaching about the new identity for believers through the use of a governmental idea. When speaking of Adam and Christ in this passage Paul is using the idea of Federal Headship. The idea of Federal Headship is that someone directly represents a group of people and the actions and decisions they make directly affect those they represent. For example if President Obama as our Commander in Chief, angers the other leaders of the world and starts a war, he speaks for all of us as citizens of the country that he represents*

Read: Romans 5:12-14

1.) The first federal head given is Adam, how did he affect those he represents? (The whole world except for those in Christ)

2.) How does this help us to better understand Romans 3:23?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Go back to Genesis 3:16-19

How does the idea of federal headship help explain why the effects of what happened here are felt in every generation.



(day 3)

Prayer: Lord help me to understand why Jesus is the better Federal Head.

Read: Romans 5:15-17

Intro: *The success of Federal Headship lies in the character and conduct of its' Head. If we have a good representative we will be greatly benefitted, yet if there is a bad head we are adversely affected. We will see why we should be thankful that when we trust Jesus as Savior He becomes our Head.*

1.) What did Jesus do to redeem those stuck underneath the effects of Adam's Headship?

2.) Why is Jesus clearly the better Head?

DIGGING DEEPER:

The Book of Hebrews shows in a few places how Jesus is the better _____, meaning He was the perfectly righteous man that Adam and his descendants could never be

**What are some of those listed there?
(Hebrews 3,4,6 & 10)**



(day 4)

Prayer: Lord show me that because I am represented by Christ, I don't need to be afraid that my past sins are counted against me and my relationship to Adam defines and controls me.

Intro: *You might be thinking to yourself "this is cool and all but why does it matter?" I'm glad you asked! As we will see today if we are represented by Jesus His headship is superior and supersedes our old Head Adam.*

Read: Romans 5:18-21

1.) In comparing the two heads which does Paul state clearly is superior? What does he say to show that?

2.) Underneath the new Head (Jesus) what happened to our mistakes and sins? So do we need to carry guilt and shame over them when God clearly has stated that they no longer define us?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read John 1:14-18

In this section, what is John saying about the nature of Jesus' dwelling on earth?

How does this help you understand Paul's argument?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me to believe that ever since Jesus became the Lord of my life I am a new creation in Him.

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1.) What does Paul state happens when you become a Christian?

2.) How is it possible to live in the freedom of our new identity rather than in the guilt and shame of our former lives without Christ?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16

How does Paul explain his new identity in Christ, in spite of his sinful past?

