



FOR GROUPS MEETING: March 23-28

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 to truly live. Last week we spoke on how the gospel freed us from the reign of sin; this week will build on that by seeing how this freedom empowers us to live differently.

## 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.

### *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.*



# (day 1)

**Prayer:** Lord may what I read and pray through this week impact and empower me to live more for you.

**Intro:** *When reading the books of the Bible it is helpful to remember that some of them were written in a certain way and order to make an effective argument. The book of Romans is one of the chief examples of this in the Bible as Paul deliberately is advancing an argument chapter by chapter.*

**Read: Romans 5:12-6:14**

**1.) According to Romans 5, what has Christ accomplished on our behalf and how does faith allow us to experience it?**

**2.) According to the first part of Romans 6 how has our faith in Christ making him our righteous head changed our relationship to sin.**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**If you want a grander context for what we are about to study read from Romans 3:23 to 6:14.**

**What was our relationship to sin?**

**How did Jesus change that?**



# (day 2)

**Lord help me to see if I'm yielding to sin or obeying you.**

**Read: Romans 6:15-16**

**1.) In verse 15 during Paul's questions some translations state, "are we to sin...?" . The best translation is, " are we to keep on sinning". This implies a choice to continue in ongoing sin without fighting to stop. How does this help us understand Paul's question better, and why do you think Paul would say that?**

**2.) Paul states that we are slaves of anyone that we obey. This idea goes beyond people to even habits and struggles. What are some of the things in your life that you enslaved to because they have control over your mind, will or emotions?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

Read John 8:1-11

How do Jesus' final words in this passage echo those of Paul in vs.15?



# (day 3)

**Prayer: Lord help me to be a slave of righteousness. I want to follow you. Show me the ways today in which I can do that.**

**Read Romans 6:17-20**

**1.) Paul in making his argument for why is better to be a slave of righteousness rather than sin. In doing so he mentions the foundation of our ability to be a slave of God again in vs 18. What is it? Why would he repeat it?**

**2.) Paul says in vs19-20 that what you choose to obey (present yourself as a slave to) ultimately determines your destiny. What are the results he lists? Have you seen these hold true in your own life?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Read John 15:5**

**How do the words of Jesus in this verse speak to the foundation of our freedom that Paul is speaking of in v.17-18?**



# (day 4)

**Pray: Lord help me to truly consider the outcomes of my choices, help me to make wise choices that advance my growth in spiritual maturity and Your kingdom.**

**Read: Romans 6:20-21**

**1.) Paul invites the readers to pause and consider what their lives were like before Christ. He reinforces the absurdity of sinful choices by pointing out their ultimate results. What does Paul say are the two results of sin?**

**2.) As we are faced with temptation, how can these truths help us choose Christ?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Read James 1:15**

**How does this verse in James reinforce what Paul is saying here?**



# (day 5)

**Prayer: Lord now that I have seen the fruits of sin, help me to see why following you is so much more worthy and fruitful! Give me the strength to follow you all of my life.**

**Read: Romans 6:22-23**

**1.) What does Paul results when by His Spirit, we choose to obey Jesus? Which is Paul clearly reinforcing as the one more worthy of obedience?**

**2.) What are the areas in your life in which you are experiencing shame and death instead of grace and growth? From what we have read this week in Romans, how can you look to what Christ has done for you to change this?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

In this short video Matt Chandler speaks on how we can grow in our faith as it relates to this topic.

Watch it here:

<https://www.rightnow.org/Media/Series/64#trailer>

