



FOR GROUPS MEETING: April 6-11

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 be able to smile no matter what. This freedom is tied directly to the hope that is found in the resurrection. No matter what we might face in life, the resurrection gives us hope and a reason to smile.

## 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.

### ***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.*



PASSION FOR GOD. COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE.

# (day 1)

**Prayer:** Lord help me to see what the resurrection of Christ means to my life every day.

**Intro:** *This week we will be looking at a few snapshots of Romans 8 and other passages that show us why we can smile no matter what due to the hope we have because of the resurrection.*

**Read: Romans 8:9-11**

**1.) This section details the tension between the Spirit and the flesh. It says the flesh brought death, but what does the Spirit bring?**

**2.) Paul cites the resurrection as an example of the Spirit's work. How does the resurrection prove the point Paul is making?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**A big struggle that we face as Christians is believing that God's power is greater than our frailty.**

**In this section what does Paul state is greater?**

**Are there areas in your life you need to believe this?**



# (day 2)

**Prayer:** Lord may the fact that you are my Father drive out fear.

**Read:** Romans 8: 12-17

**1.) Paul says in verse 15 that because of the Spirit we are supposed to live free of something, what is it?**

**2.) Paul in doing this states the reason we can live free from fear is our new relationship with God as Father. Therefore, rather than running to fear in our hard times what can our response be?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Read:** 2 Timothy 1:6-7

**How does what Paul writes here reinforce what is written in Rom 8:15?**



# (day 3)

**Prayer:** Lord may I be comforted knowing that even at this moment Your Spirit is operating on my behalf.

**Intro:** *We can smile no matter what due to the Holy Spirit's work in us and for us. We have already examined briefly what He is doing in us. Let us now turn to what He does for us.*

**Read: Romans 8:26-27**

**1.) What does Paul state the Spirit does? (first part of v.26... "He helps...)**

**2.) In what way does Paul say the Spirit does this for us?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**One of the main ways the Spirit helps us in our weakness is through Prayer. How does this truth give a different light to what Paul states in Philippians 4:6-7?**



# (day 4)

**Pray:** God thank You that You are on my side because of what Jesus has done. May I remember this as I'm facing life's trials.

**Read:** Romans 8:31-34

**1.)** In keeping with our theme that the gospel frees us to be able to smile no matter what, what reason does Paul give in the opening of this section?

**2.)** One of the quickest ways we can fall into a rut in life is if we believe that we are condemned even after we are in Christ. What does Paul state about this here?

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

**One of the biggest struggles we have as people is our forgetfulness.**

**Re-Read Romans 8:1**

**How does this verse speak emphatically against the rut we were speaking of in question 2.**



# (day 5)

**Prayer:** Lord help me to smile because, no matter what, I'm covered in and surrounded by your love.

**Read:** Romans 8:37-39

**Intro:** *One of the best ways to maintain hope is to remember the majesty and magnificence of God's love.*

**1.) What does Paul say about the breadth of God's love in this section?**

**2.) At times, there are many things that we believe keep us from God's love; this passage states there is nothing that can separate us from His love. Are there areas you need to believe this in? What makes this so hard to believe at times?**

## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

Go back through what we have read and dug through this week. Make a list of the reasons we have to smile no matter what. Then, when the dark times of life come, you can pull it out and remind yourself that there is hope!

