

# NEXT STEPS<sup>7</sup>

## FAITH ESSENTIALS: WHAT IS FREEDOM?

### SELF STUDY QUESTIONS

What things in my life have the greatest importance to me?  
What do I spend my energy focusing on?  
How free do I feel in comparison to the personal issues that I face?

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What benefits are there in experiencing true freedom together as a body of believers in Christ?  
How can we adjust our thinking and perspective to be more freedom-minded for each other?

### MAIN NOTES

#### **Jesus Came To Give Us Freedom**

Jesus didn't stop at simply rescuing us from hell, and we shouldn't either because there is more freedom available from fear, rejection, insecurity, relationship issues, addictions, and anything we can think of.

"The spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor... to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free all who are oppressed; and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord!"  
Luke 4:18-19

Jesus never came to point out all our issues and tell us to be better people. He came to destroy the part of us that was destroying us.

#### **Changing The Way We Think**

Our focus should be on God, not the problems we face. We find meaning and fulfillment in God. Jesus wants to be involved in every part of our lives.

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33).  
Everything in our lives is aligned around our first priority. If we get the first step right, all the other steps will line up.

Freedom really begins when we start to focus on God rather than the problems that are in our lives. When getting rid of the problem becomes our focus rather than God, that thing ultimately takes first priority.

### **Know And Embrace The Truth**

Freedom doesn't just happen the minute we get saved. There is a process involving intentionality on our part to get into God's word and experience him.

"If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:31-32, 36

We will know the truth as we spend time letting God speak his word into our lives. God wants to be our source of truth. Only the truth that we embrace makes us free.

### **Partner With The Holy Spirit**

We have the ability to invite the presence of God, His Spirit, into anything we would want to be changed. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17 God is present everywhere but when we seek him first, value his truth as our source, and acknowledge the Holy Spirit's presence by welcoming him more freedom comes into our lives and our surroundings.

### **Freedom Is.....**

Freedom is when nothing and no one has a hold on us but Jesus. Freedom is not the absence of something, it's the presence of someone. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 God wants to speak truth to our lives and change our belief in lies we didn't even realize that we believed about ourselves, our circumstances, and other people.

### **3 Questions To Ask God**

Would you show me what I am seeking first right now?

Is there something I am believing in right now that does not line up with your truth?

Is there something I am trying to do on my own that you want to do with me or for me?

### **DAILY LIVING**

The beautiful thing about God's freedom is that there is always more. Regardless of our past, the habits we are stuck in, or how much freedom we are currently experiencing, God always has more truth to share with us. Phrases like "I'm healthy enough" or "I can see pretty good" are not in God's vocabulary, so why bother thinking that way in our own life when it comes to freedom? How free are we? Do we know? Speaking with God, asking Him questions, and really listening for an answer can help determine how free we really are. There is always more freedom to be found in Christ.

## **PRAYER POINT**

Take a moment to go through the Self Study and Group Discussion questions again. Ask God to point out a key truth that He wants you to focus on. Ask Him what you've been seeking first, if there is something you've been believing that doesn't agree with His truth, and allow His answers to shape the way you think and move forward.

## **PERSONAL NOTES**