

CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING



LOOKING
for
LIFE

DECEMBER 8-10, 2018



Freedom

This week we're learning how God brings freedom from sin and shame through Jesus.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- When have you felt as if you were a slave to something in your life?
- What makes someone in your life seem especially free?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ ISAIAH 61:1 (NIV) & ROMANS 6:5-11 (NLT)

- What keeps us in bondage?
- How can we experience freedom from that bondage?
- What are some ways sin binds us in our everyday lives?
- What's the "power of sin" (vv. 7, 10-11) and the long-term effect of that bondage? (See Romans 6:20-21.)
- What's the power of the gospel? What does it mean to be "alive to God through Christ Jesus"? (Romans 6:11; see Romans 6:20-21.)
- What are some of the characteristics of a life in bondage to sin? (See Galatians 5:19-21 for examples.)
- What are some of the characteristics of a Spirit-led life of freedom? (See Galatians 5:22-23 for examples.)
- What are some ways you can further embrace the abundant life this week?
Who are some specific people in your life whom you can call to that same freedom?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

Freedom isn't just about the bondage you're released from; it's also about the life you're released to. The promise and hope of Jesus is that we're freed from sin and that we're freed to the abundant life we were created by God to experience. But for so many, the struggle is experiencing that abundant life. The devil will mislead us and try to trick us into accepting a lesser life ruled by fear. The world will try to convince us that we're bound by sin. But the gospel is a call to life free from shame and selfishness; we are free to live a life of love fueled by the grace of God!

READ COLOSSIANS 2:13-19 (NLT)

- What were some of the practices Paul warned the Colossians against?
- What kinds of freedom does that bondage prevent people from experiencing?
- What are some areas where it's hard for you to embrace the freedom of the gospel?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:5-7 (NLT)

- What are some ways a life governed by "power, love, and self-discipline" is different from a life governed by "fear and timidity" (v. 7)?
- As you've grown in your faith, where have you seen God's freedom more fully at work in your life?
- How could you continue to "fan into flames" (v. 6) and experience a growth in your faith so that you could more fully experience what it means to be fully alive?

This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.