

Sermon Study Guide

Freedom Worth Celebrating

The Fourth of July and Freedom in Christ

Key Scripture

Galatians 5:1

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Theme

As we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, we are reminded that there is a greater freedom available through Jesus Christ. Earthly freedom is valuable, but spiritual freedom is eternal.

Opening Discussion

Icebreaker Questions

1. What freedoms do you appreciate most about living in America?
2. Why do people throughout history fight for freedom?
3. How does the world define freedom?

4. How does the Bible define freedom differently?

Key Thought

National freedom can affect where we live.

Spiritual freedom affects how we live and where we spend eternity.

Point 1: Freedom From the Penalty of Sin

Scripture

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Fill In The Blank

The wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is _____.

Jesus came to set us free from the _____ of sin.

Salvation is a _____, not something we earn.

Biblical Example

The Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:39-43)

Even at the end of his life, the thief received forgiveness through faith in Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it difficult for people to accept salvation as a free gift?
2. What are some ways people try to earn God's favor?
3. How does knowing you are forgiven change your relationship with God?

Key Truth

Jesus paid the debt we could never pay.

Point 2: Freedom From the Power of Sin

Scripture

Romans 6:14

"For sin shall not have dominion over you."

Fill In The Blank

Before Christ, we are slaves to _____.

Through Christ, we receive power through the _____ Spirit.

Biblical freedom is not the freedom to do whatever we want; it is the freedom to do what is _____.

Biblical Example

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus experienced a transformed heart and life.

Discussion Questions

1. What habits or struggles often control people today?
2. What areas of your life has Christ helped you overcome?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help believers grow?

Key Truth

Christ not only forgives us; He transforms us.

Point 3: Freedom Is Not a License for Selfish Living

Scripture

Galatians 5:13

"Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Additional Scripture

1 Corinthians 10:23

"All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial."

Fill In The Blank

Christian freedom comes with _____.

Just because we can do something does not mean we _____ do it.

True freedom always considers what is _____ and beneficial.

Biblical Example

Samson (Judges 13-16)

Samson repeatedly used God's gifts for selfish purposes and suffered the consequences.

Discussion Questions

1. How does our culture define freedom?

2. What freedoms can become harmful when misused?

3. Why does God establish boundaries?

Key Truth

Freedom without responsibility eventually becomes bondage.

Point 4: Freedom Allows Us to Serve Others

Scripture

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."

Fill In The Blank

Jesus demonstrated that true greatness is found in _____.

The more we become like Christ, the more we learn to _____ others.

Freedom in Christ moves us from self-centered living to _____-centered living.

Biblical Example

Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)

The King of Kings willingly took the role of a servant.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is serving others sometimes difficult?
2. How did Jesus redefine greatness?
3. What practical ways can you serve others this week?

Key Truth

Freedom in Christ produces a servant's heart.

Point 5: Freedom Gives Us Courage to Live for Christ

Scripture

Romans 8:1-2

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Fill In The Blank

Because of Christ, there is now no _____.

Our identity is found in _____, not our failures.

Freedom in Christ gives us courage to live

_____.

Biblical Example

Peter

Peter denied Jesus out of fear, but after encountering the risen Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit, he boldly proclaimed the gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. What fears keep believers from living boldly?
2. How does God's grace give confidence?
3. Where is God calling you to take a step of faith?

Key Truth

People who understand God's grace are free to live courageously.

Freedom Comparison Exercise

National Freedom	Freedom in Christ
Freedom to worship	Freedom to know God
Freedom from oppression	Freedom from sin
Protected by laws	Purchased by Christ
Temporary	Eternal

National Freedom
Given by government

Freedom in Christ
Given by God

Group Discussion

Which freedom has impacted your life the most and why?

Application Challenge

This week:

- ☐ Thank God for the freedoms of our nation.
 - ☐ Thank Jesus for freedom from sin.
 - ☐ Identify one area where God wants you to walk in greater freedom.
 - ☐ Find one practical way to serve someone else.
 - ☐ Share your faith story with one person.
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Memory Verse

John 8:36

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Closing Reflection

What area of your life still feels enslaved by fear, guilt, anger, addiction, pride, or regret?

How is Christ inviting you to experience greater freedom today?

Prayer

"Lord, thank You for the freedoms we enjoy in our nation, but even more for the freedom You have given us through Jesus Christ. Help us live as people who are truly free—free from sin, free to serve, and free to boldly follow You. May we use our freedom to honor You and bless others. In Jesus' name, Amen."