



LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Within Reach
Message Title: Freedom is Within Reach
Speaker: Jacob Salmons
Date: March 18, 2018

UP NEXT

- **Life Group Schedule** - The last official week of Life Groups for this Spring will be the week of May 6th.. May is very busy with Mother's Day, Graduations, and school ending. We don't want to add to the craziness. However, keep in mind, your Life Group is welcome to continue to meet after this time, there just won't be a Discussion Guide sent out.
- **Easter Sunday** - Sunday, April 1st - Join us for one of our five Easter service times at 9:00am, 10:45am, 3:00pm, 4:30pm, & 6:00pm.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - March 24th (10:00am) - Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an epic morning at Reality Church. There will be games, face painting, balloon animals, pony rides, bunnies, pancakes... and multiple Easter Egg Hunts! Everything is free (although there will be a suggested donation for the Pancake Man). You can volunteer to serve at this event by going to reality.church/events.

MAIN IDEA

God will stop at nothing to free His people from slavery

INTRODUCTION

- We need to establish our lives on the clear statements of Scripture regarding God's will for our lives.
 - And here is one: "*For freedom Christ has set us free.*" Christ's will for you is that you enjoy freedom.
- All of those secondary life-decisions like: *Where you go to school, what job you do, where you live, who you marry*, etc., are not as crucial as whether you stand firm in the freedom offered to you by Jesus Christ.
- If those decisions were as important, the Bible would have commanded those things as clearly as it commands living a life of freedom. But it doesn't. You can rest in that truth!

DISCUSSION

- How many of you enjoy going to Costco, Sams, etc when they're giving out those "free" samples?
 - I do. If you're like me, sometimes (ok all the time) I feel a little guilty because I know I'm probably not going to buy whatever it is that they are selling, I just want the free sample.
 - Isn't that odd though? I mean they're free. There's no sign saying I have to buy the bag. No one will tackle me if I keep walking by. But yet I still feel guilty.
 - Apparently, I don't really understand the true definition of the word *free*! Because if I did, I would eat ALL of the samples. Hey, there's no sign saying I can only have one!

- Have someone read ([Galatians 5:1](#))
 - Depending on which translation you read you may have new questions about this verse.
 - The New Living Translation (NLT) says the following, “*So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.*”
 - What about that little phrase “*make sure you stay free*”?
 - Doesn’t that make it sound like our freedom is something we can win or lose?
 - A different (and better) translation would be something like “*keep standing firm...*” That is, “*keep standing firm in the truth/realization that you have been made free in Christ.*”
 - What are some ways you can “keep standing firm” knowing you have been made free?
 - From your experience with others, what are some of the more hurtful ways people have been imprisoned?
 - Have someone read ([Galatians 5:2-4](#))
 - Why is the passage being written to the hearers?
 - We aren’t being pressured to circumcise ourselves to have a relationship with Jesus... but does this passage have any relevance for us today?
 - What are some of the many ways people try to “make themselves right” with God?
 - However, what is the only way we can truly be “made right with God”?
 - How have you seen God “stop at nothing” to extend His grace/freedom to you?

APPLY IT

- This week, what would it look like for you fully exercise your freedom in Christ?
- How have you been? or How are you going to connect with God on a regular basis?
 - *alarms, apps, times of day, reminders, etc.*
- Name a person who is close to you but far from God. What step can you take in the next week to care for them?