



Sharing Our Freedom July 4-5, 2020 - Chad Negley

This week Pastor Chad Negley, our Orland Park Campus Pastor, talks about the amazing kind of freedom that comes through life with Jesus.

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about your favorite July 4th tradition. Talk about how this time of COVID-19 is changing the way you keep that tradition.
2. Talk about a moment in your life where you felt truly "free" - riding a bike as a kid, the first time you drove a car by yourself, etc. What was it about that moment that makes it so memorable to you?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your

eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, remember the big picture of this week's teaching:

- The key to living a life of freedom with Jesus is knowing what we're supposed to do with that freedom.

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this week's message that resonated with you. What made it stick out to you?
2. Pastor Chad shared with us the idea that freedom doesn't mean "no limits." Talk about how you've learned that lesson in your own life. What happens to others when we have no limits on our freedom?
3. In the passage Pastor Chad quoted, the point of being free is that we're able to give our freedom to others by serving them (Galatians 5:13). Talk about a time when someone served you out of their own freedom (free time, resources, or experiences). How can you use your freedom this week to serve someone else?
4. Read Galatians 5:13-26. Read slowly and make a note of any words or phrases that stand out to you. Paul wrote this letter to a community that was struggling with whether or not they (as Christians) should live by the Jewish law or by the Spirit. Talk about how the "freedom" of 5:13 flows through the rest of the passage.
5. There is a contrast between freedom to live by the "flesh" (things that satisfy us but destroy us) and freedom to live by the Spirit (5:22-26). Talk about the differences between these two ways of living freely. Why do we need freedom to live by the Spirit as well as to live by our "flesh"?
6. Paul suggest that there is an ultimate goal to how we use our freedom (see Galatians 5:14). Take a moment and honestly assess how you are using your freedom to love others well. How do your social media feed or recent conversations reflect the call to love others with your freedom of speech, for example? Make a commitment this week to think about using your freedoms to love and serve others instead of creating divisions, etc.

Takeaway

Pastor Chad mentioned that he will put a lit candle on his porch this July 4th to symbolize the freedom he has in Jesus to love and serve others.

Consider doing the same thing as a group or with your family. If you have kids, make it a fun experience and give each child a job (I.e. carrying the candle, picking the spot, lighting it - if you can trust them with fire!).

As you light the candle and put it in a place where others can see, consider praying this prayer out loud:

God, this candle is to show everyone around us that we are free. But we aren't free just so that we can be happy and have what we need. We're free to help others and when we do that, people will see who you really are: a God of love who gives freedom to His kids. Help us every time we see this candle to remember how you gave us freedom and to use it to do what You have for us to do. Amen.