

SHACKLED

Community Group Discussion: 12.08 - 12.22

SERIES OVERVIEW

You may be familiar with Charles Dickens' classic short novel, A Christmas Carol. Dickens' character Ebenezer Scrooge is haunted by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. His former employer, Jacob Marley visits him as a spirit wearing shackles, symbolizing the failings of their life on earth. Whether sins of the past, present, or future, we often wear our own proverbial shackles and are bound by them in this life. The good news of Christmas, however, is God putting on flesh and becoming as one of us. In Jesus, we find freedom from the shackles of our past, our present, and our future.

MAIN TEXT

Galatians 4:4-5, Matthew 1:21, Isaiah 54:4, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:28, Psalm 32:3

GETTING STARTED

What is your favorite Christmas movie?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Galatians 4:4-5. What things in your past seem to always come back up or stir up feelings of guilt or regret that keep you shackled to your past?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. In order for us to forgive ourselves or forgive others, it starts with our belief in God and his grace towards us. When did you first believe in Jesus? What led you to that believe? If you haven't placed your belief in Jesus and been baptized, what's standing in the way?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. When Jesus comes into your life he begins to remake us into new people. How have you seen your life change as a result of Jesus?
4. Read Romans 8:28. Breaking free from your past doesn't mean forgetting your past. How have you seen God redeem something messy in your life and use it for good?

5. Read Psalm 32:3. It has been said that we are as sick as our secrets. When have you had to confess about something? What happened when you did?

NEXT STEPS

How would you complete this sentence:

I have allowed _____ to shackle me to my past.

Read Romans 6:22. Jesus paid the price for your freedom. Will you let go of your past and take hold of this promise this week?



Dec. 22: 5 & 7 p.m.

Both Campuses