

## I am Who I am: Independent and Free

Ice-Breaker: At what time in your life did you achieve complete independence and freedom from your parents?

The person of God: He is completely independent and free - Reference Isaiah 40:13-14 for support of this point.

- *The God who is has no needs* - the Father has life in himself... (John 5:26a)

We have needs, unlike God. Brainstorm a list of your daily needs. Who/what do you depend on to meet these needs? How does it make you feel to be dependent?

*Our God is in the heaven; He does whatever pleases him. (Psalm 115:3)*

- *He is in total control* - Reference Daniel 4:34-35 for support of this point.

We are not in total control, unlike God. Brainstorm a list of things that are daily out of your control. How does it make you feel to be dependent on others who are in control?

The purpose of God: He has a sovereign will - Reference Isaiah 46:9-10 for support of this point.

- *He is independent and free to choose and not choose* - Reference Romans 9:11-14 in support of this point.

- *He is independent and free to allow evil* - This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. (Acts 2:23)

- *He is independent and free to give and take life* - The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. (1 Samuel 2:6)  
Of the three bullets above, which is/are the hardest for you to accept? The easiest? Why? Which of the three are you most familiar with having experienced? The least familiar?

Our position from God: He allows us to participate in His plan - As a group, read Romans 12:1-2 (Keep this verse with you all week and attempt to memorize it.)

How does it feel to be completely at the mercy of God?

Discuss as a group what “offering your bodies as a living sacrifice” entails. Then come up with some ways you can “offer your bodies” and “renew your mind.” Pick one or two to pursue this week.

Pray for the strength and motivation to practically “offer your bodies” and “renew your mind.”

Circle back around next week and discuss how it went. How might you have seen God’s will in a different light offering your body and renewing your mind?

## **I am Who I am: Independent and Free**

**Ice-Breaker:** At what time in your life did you achieve complete independence and freedom from your parents?

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)