



DISCIPLESHIP WITH THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

Discussion Questions:

The sermon describes freedom not as a life without boundaries but as living within the right ones -- in what ways have you personally experienced God's boundaries as protective rather than restrictive?

Proverbs 29:6 contrasts the trap of sin with the righteous escaping and shouting for joy -- what does genuine, joyful freedom from sin look like in your daily life, and how is it different from simply suppressing a struggle?

The pastor describes a long season of believing that true freedom did not really exist -- what lies about freedom have you believed, and how has Scripture challenged or reshaped those beliefs?

Proverbs 25:28 compares a person without self-control to a city with broken-down walls -- in what areas of your life do you sense that your walls are down, and what practical steps can you take to rebuild them?

The sermon emphasizes running from temptation rather than resisting it, drawing on Proverbs 4:15 -- where in your life have you tried to endure temptation rather than flee from it, and what was the result?

The pastor draws a distinction between sin being concealed by God in grace versus concealed by us in shame -- how does understanding that difference change the way you approach confession and repentance?

James 5:16 calls believers to confess their sins to one another so they may be healed -- who in your life serves as a trustworthy person to whom you can confess sin, and what has kept you from pursuing that kind of relationship if you do not have one?

The sermon warns against being a 'let's pretend Christian' who acts as if everything is fine when it is not -- in what ways might you be performing spiritual health rather than genuinely pursuing it?

The pastor points to Proverbs 16:6 as Solomon foreshadowing Christ, whose unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin -- how does recognizing that your freedom is rooted entirely in what Jesus did, rather than in your own strength, change how you approach your struggles?

The sermon closes with the declaration that families can be different starting today, breaking generational cycles of bondage -- what specific cycle in your family line do you feel called to break through surrender to Christ, and what would that freedom look like for the next generation?



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Small Group Guide: True Freedom

Based on Proverbs 4:7 and the Series Through Proverbs

Overview

This week's sermon challenged the idea that freedom means living without limits. Drawing from the book of Proverbs and the New Testament, the message made the case that true freedom is only found in Jesus Christ, and that God's boundaries exist not to restrict us but to protect us. Sin enslaves. Confession restores. And the unfailing love and faithfulness of Jesus makes a way out.

Key Takeaways

- Wisdom is learning how to live rightly in God's world, on his terms, not our own.
- True freedom is not life without boundaries. It is living within the right ones.
- A person without self-control is exposed and vulnerable, like a city with broken-down walls (Proverbs 25:28).
- The path to freedom requires confession and repentance, both to God and to trusted believers.
- Freedom from sin is not found in resisting temptation but in removing yourself from it entirely.
- True freedom is only possible through Jesus, whose unfailing love and faithfulness made atonement for sin (Proverbs 16:6).

Discussion Questions

Opening (Getting the Conversation Started)

1. When you hear the word "freedom," what is the first thing that comes to mind? How has your definition of freedom changed over time?
2. The pastor described a long season of his life in which he did not believe true freedom was actually possible. Can you relate to that? What shaped that belief in you, or in people you grew up around?

Digging In (Going Deeper Into the Sermon)

1. Proverbs 25:28 compares a person without self-control to a city with broken-down walls. What areas of your life have felt most exposed or unguarded? What did that cost you?

2. The sermon made the point that God's boundaries are not meant to restrict freedom but to protect it. Where have you experienced that to be true? Where do you still struggle to believe it?
3. The pastor drew a sharp distinction between resisting temptation and removing yourself from it entirely, referencing Proverbs 4:13-15. What is the difference in practice? Why do you think so many people try to stand against temptation rather than flee from it?
4. Proverbs 28:13 says that people who conceal their sins will not prosper, but those who confess and turn from them will receive mercy. Why is it so hard to stop concealing sin? What keeps people hiding?
5. James 5:16 calls believers to confess their sins to one another. The pastor described this as something that breaks the power of secret sin. Have you ever experienced that? What made it difficult or meaningful?

Getting Personal (Honest Reflection)

1. The pastor asked the group directly: are you playing pretend Christian? What does that look like in everyday life, and what does it cost a person spiritually?
2. The sermon described sin not as something that drags us away against our will, but as something we give ourselves to willingly, sometimes even joyfully. How does that honesty change the way you think about your own sin and your need for grace?
3. The pastor said that Jesus paid a ransom for people who made themselves enemies of God. How does that reality affect the way you receive his grace? Does it feel too good to be true? Why or why not?

Looking Ahead (Practical Application)

1. The sermon closed with the image of generational cycles of sin and bondage, and the declaration that freedom can begin with one person in one generation. Is there a cycle in your family or background that you sense God calling you to break? What would that require of you?
2. Who in your life can you confess sin to? If you do not have that person, what is one step you could take this week to find or build that kind of relationship?

Practical Applications

- Identify one area of your life where you have been trying to resist temptation rather than flee from it. Make a specific and concrete decision this week to remove yourself from that environment, relationship, or habit.
- If you do not already have one or two people in your life with whom you can be completely honest about sin, pray and ask God to bring that person into your life. Consider reaching out to someone in your group this week.
- Take time before your next group meeting to read Proverbs 4:10-19 in full. Notice the language of paths, choices, and movement. Come prepared to share one observation that stood out to you.
- Write down your answer to this question and bring it back to the group: In what area of my life am I still living as if freedom is not actually possible for me?

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying specifically over these three things:

1. That each person would have the courage to stop concealing sin and begin confessing it.
2. That God would raise up trusted, spiritually mature relationships within the group for accountability and prayer.

3. That every person in the group would believe, not just intellectually but in their daily experience, that true freedom in Jesus is real and available to them right now.