

WELCOME [KNOWING EACH OTHER DEEPER]

Let's make everyone feel welcome, especially the new faces in the group.

Connect Question: What's the most free you can ever remember feeling?

WORSHIP [TAKE OUR LOVE FOR GOD DEEPER]

Let praise flow from my lips, for you have taught me your decrees.

Let my tongue sing about your word, for all your commands are right.

Psalms 119: 171-172 (NLT)

WORD [LIVING DEEPER FOR HIM]

Truth = Freedom: All of us have a deep seated longing to be free. It's in our very make-up. And so we long for the freedom to choose what we want to do, to go where we want to go, and be who we want to be. We strive for financial freedom, we demand freedom of expression, and we claim political freedom.

But Jesus said "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32).

If freedom is a built-in must-have for us all, could it be then (yet again), that the freedom sought in this world looks quite different from the freedom found in God. Only the one is real and only one is lasting!

Real and Lasting Freedom:

- Read John 15:4-5:
 - Examine your every day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month life. What aspects or activities feel quite fruitless and far more like imprisonment than freedom! Discuss.
- Who is the most famous/important person **you** know? Looking for really big name drops here!
 - Now if someone had to ask this famous/important person how well they know **you**, how do you think they might answer? Be honest now!
 - Read 2 Peter 1:3 and discuss:
 - The bible tells us that God knows every hair on our head. We may know the truth, but how well do we really and truly know THE truth?
- Read John 8:1-11:
 - Take a moment to really reflect back on your own life. And quietly in your mind's eye, remind yourself of a time when you were least deserving of God's grace and forgiveness, and of His freedom.
 - Now take another quiet moment to give thanks to God for the finished works of the cross, for the shed blood of Jesus, and for the incredible freedom that is ours in Him.

Jesus made it clear that we are either a slave in the house of sin, or a son/daughter in the house of freedom. And we are to declare victory as we claim Galatians 5:1 over each of our liberated lives: 'For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.'

WORKS [GOING DEEPER IN PRAYER]

Let's pray for:

- For God to break any and every chain of slavery to sin that still remain in our lives.
- Salvation and real and lasting freedom for our unsaved loved ones.
- Any special needs within the group.