

Deep Dive Discussion Guide

Puppets, Boot Heels, Bubble Wrap, and Dents - Rob Frank — July 12, 2025

Scriptures for Today

- Luke 22:42
- Genesis 1:26–27
- Matthew 22:37–39
- Luke 15:11–24
- Genesis 22:1–14
- Philippians 2:6–8
- Romans 5:3–5
- James 1:2–4
- 1 Peter 4:13

Opening Reflection — Follow-Up From Last Week

Last week's call to action from *Decisions Determine Destiny* was: **“Choose one decision that aligns your life more fully with God's plan — a decision that reflects persuasion, belief, and confession. Make that decision intentionally, and allow Christ — the new Resident — to renovate one area of your life that needs His touch.”**

How did that go for you this past week? Where did you make a decision that aligned more fully with God's plan, and what did you notice as Christ began renovating that area?

1. What Stood Out From the Last Two Sermons?

Rob shared how surrender and active faith shaped his reflections. **What themes from the last two weeks have stayed with you or challenged you?**

2. Misconception #1 — God Is a Puppet Master

Rob said many believers subconsciously imagine God pulling strings like a puppeteer. **Where have you personally struggled with the idea that God is controlling everything?** How does free will change your understanding of relationship with God?

3. Created in God's Image — Not Puppets

Genesis 1:26–27 Being made in God's image means possessing freedom, volition, creativity, and the capacity to love. **How does knowing you were created with real agency deepen your understanding of surrender?**

4. Without Free Will, There Is No Surrender

Rob said: *“Without free will, there can be no surrender — only compulsion.”* **Where have you seen the difference between forced obedience and voluntary surrender in your own walk?**

5. Misconception #2 — God Is a Tyrant

Many people imagine God as harsh, angry, or waiting to punish. **Have you ever struggled with seeing God this way?** What helped reshape your view of His character?

6. Jesus Reveals the True Nature of God

Philippians 2:6–8 God did not crush humanity — He humbled Himself, served, and died for us. **How does the cross dismantle the “tyrant” misconception?**

7. Misconception #3 — God Bubble-Wraps Believers

Rob illustrated how bubble wrap isolates, restricts, and prevents growth. **Where have you expected God to shield you from adversity?** How has hardship actually shaped your faith or character? (*Romans 5:3–5; James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 4:13*)

8. The Prodigal Son — Freedom to Leave, Freedom to Return

Luke 15:11–24 The father did not force the son to stay or return. **What does this story teach you about God’s respect for human freedom?**

9. Isaac’s Surrender — A Free, Costly Choice

Genesis 22:1–14 Isaac was not a child — he willingly surrendered. **Where is God inviting you to a costly, voluntary act of surrender?**

10. The Dignity of Choice

Rob said: “*We are not helpless wooden figures... we are divinely authorized human beings with the immense dignity of choice.*” **What choice is God placing before you right now that carries spiritual weight?**

11. Using Freedom to Love

Rob emphasized that God hopes we use our freedom to love Him and others. **Where is God inviting you to use your freedom for love rather than self-protection, fear, or control?**

Closing Call to Action

This week, use your God-given freedom to choose one deliberate act of surrender — not forced, not out of fear, but out of love. Lay down one preference, one fear, one entitlement, or one area of control, and choose the Father’s will with your whole heart, soul, and mind. Let that choice reshape your destiny.