

LEADERS GUIDE

BEFREE LIVING IN FREEDOM EVERYDAY



BEFREE LIVING IN FREEDOM EVERYDAY



Introduction

Note Taking Section

Leader's Guide Introduction

Our Leader's Guide is designed to minimize your stress and enhance your experience as a group leader. While no two Be Free groups look quite the same, our goal is to see each group present the weekly material in a consistent and concise way. We trust the Lord has created divine appointments with the participants in your group, which means you have been handpicked to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those you meet with each week. Isn't it exciting?

The goal of the curriculum is to point people toward true freedom. What an honor it is to be a part of such a ministry. Here's the good news: As a leader, it is not your job to fix problems or have all the answers; your job is to love well and live in the Tree of Life. From the gifts and talents you've been given to the experiences you've had, you have all you need to shepherd your group down the pathways of righteousness. The Holy Spirit will do the work; all you need to do is include Him.

Each week, the Leader's Guide will give you a summary of the material and key points to cover in your group. Your time together should be less about rehashing the entire week's study and more about connecting and applying the study to daily living. A good rule of thumb for any small group is the 70/30 Rule with approximately 70% of the conversation

from participants and 30% from leaders. Your aim is simply to facilitate conversation, engage participants, and reinforce the Word of God.

Weekly Talking Points

Key Elements for Each Group Meeting

The Overview provides a general summary of the chapter. It contains a list of the big ideas participants need to understand in order to move on to the next week.

The Main Focus pulls out key concepts from the teaching. It is not an exhaustive list; however, it can be used to make sure the main truths are covered.

The Discussion Points help you as a leader to engage your participants. No doubt, you may have questions and conversation starters of your own. However, you can use these questions to draw your group into each week's discussion. Their participation in the discussion is vital!

The Take-Aways are meant to help you reinforce the ideas presented that day. The Take-Aways summarize the weekly teaching and help participants apply the concepts in their spiritual walk.

The Prayer Focus gives you specific prayer points for your group's ministry time and matches the concepts presented for the week.

Lifesavers

Woven into the curriculum each week, you'll find two topics: Ask Yourself and Think About It. Not only do they challenge the participants to think about where they are and where they would like to be, they also give you, the leader, talking points for group time.

Note Taking Section

Before You Begin

Prayer

The most powerful weapon you have this semester is prayer. As a leader, your duties include providing a safe environment in which participants can be transparent, praying for each group member daily, and forming relationships within the group. Genuine life change happens within the context of relationships. In return, God will partner with you to bring transformation and wholeness to your participants.

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint and equip you and your co-leader to lead Be Free this semester. As you do what you can in the natural, ask Him to do the supernatural. Next, pray the Holy Spirit begins to draw the right participants to your group. Decide on a plan for you and your co-leader to pray for each participant, by name, every day during the semester. Be sure to pray for your leaders and co-leaders every day, too. Remember, you are a team, and are there to lift each other up (Ecclesiastes 4:10).

If you are a new co-leader, you have nothing to fear. God will give you the words you need in the moment you need them. Be on the lookout for ways to serve the group and the leader behind the scenes, and since you will be pouring out each week, take time to fill up your spiritual and physical well by spending time with the Lord and getting plenty of rest.

As a leader, it is important to equip and train your co-leader. Go through the schedule together and ask them to pick weeks they would like to lead; they should at least lead some of the lessons. It will decrease your responsibilities, but also bring a fresh point of view to the group. As the leader, you are ultimately responsible for the weekly lesson, so during the actual small group, be watchful for any time the co-leader may need for you to join in and help in a certain area. Your experience and influence will help your co-leader gain confidence, and as you empower them to use their unique gifts and abilities, you will see substantial growth in both of your lives.

Introduction

Note Taking Section

Co-leaders & Leaders

The role of the co-leader is to support the leader, pray for the leader and participants daily, and take place in weekly discussion overviews in the Leader's Guide Introduction.

Boundaries

Establish boundaries for your group. Decide ahead of time what contact information you will share with your participants, how you will communicate, and what time of the day/night is too late or too early to talk or email. There may be a day of the week you are not available because of work, children's schedules, etc. Let your co-leader(s) know this information in advance and set up a safety net for any emergencies from your group.

Housekeeping

Handouts and extra information may be emailed to you, so it is wise to create a file or desktop folder for this information. You may need these documents in the days ahead and having them handy will save you time and energy. Also hold on to a copy of your group rosters. You may need them for future Be Free groups or to invite past participants to upcoming events. It is helpful to have some way for your participants to write down prayer requests each week. Many leaders use index cards. They should turn these in to you or your co-leader during prayer time. Encourage them

to write down personal requests, specifically for them. Although you may pray for their friends and family, emphasize this is their personal ministry time.

Prayer time is one of the best parts of Be Free. Make it a priority each week. Even if discussion has to be cut short to end on time, make time for prayer. If you have a participant who is not comfortable sharing needs, ask them to allow you to pray a blessing over them. Their comfort level will rise as they encounter the Holy Spirit. This intimate prayer time also helps prepare them for the Be Free Retreat at the end of the semester.

Many leaders divide the cards up after the group ends. Pray for the prayer requests daily. If the Lord gives you a verse for them, write it down on the index card and share it with them the following week. You may even create an electronic log of each participant's prayer requests each week. Doing so makes it is easy to share with your co-leader and to see how the Lord is moving in each person's life. Consider giving the individual prayer log to each person at the end of the semester as a testimony of the goodness of the Lord. It is recommended to only use first names on written prayer requests to protect the privacy of your participants.

Worship

Atmosphere is important. Prayer and worship can change a cold room lined with stone into a safe place, warm and inviting. For this reason, it is wise to begin each group time with prayer and worship. Choose a song relevant to the teaching or a favorite from your personal collection—sharing a personal favorite is a great way to connect with your group. When you start each week in worship, you declare you surrender your agenda to that of the Holy Spirit. Worship time allows your participants to experience the presence of God. For many, this may be the first time they have ever sat down or been able to breathe during the week. It may be a new and perhaps uncomfortable experience for some, but lift them up in prayer and lead by example as you fix your eyes on the Father. A smile and a positive attitude go a long way in helping your group come to enjoy and even look forward to a little mid-week or weekend worship. It also shows them how to cultivate environments for an encounter with God outside of your group. Recommend songs or artists you enjoy, and teach them spending time in the presence of God is a powerful way to experience intimacy, healing, and restoration.

Preparing Each Lesson

Pre-group meetings with your coleader are a great time to talk about the week's plan and pray. Before the semester begins, decide who will lead the different weeks, and compare schedules for any planned absences. It is natural to select the teachings which spoke to you when you were a participant or those you understand well, but also prayerfully consider taking on teaching that will challenge you as a leader.

Read the lessons you will lead. Share your approach with one another on the teaching so you can be on the same page and discuss any potential areas which may be confusing or misleading. Make notes in the margin of your book for what you might want to mention.

The margins are also a good place to add Scripture references you could ask participants to look up and read aloud. Remember your role is facilitator, not lecturer. Remember the 70/30 Rule. Present the topics, and allow the Holy Spirit to change hearts. Sometimes you may present a topic that is difficult for someone; be sensitive, but do not skip over main concepts to avoid offense. Instead, ask the Lord to be the filter for the words spoken and allow the ears of the participants be tuned into truth.

Note Taking Section

Introduction

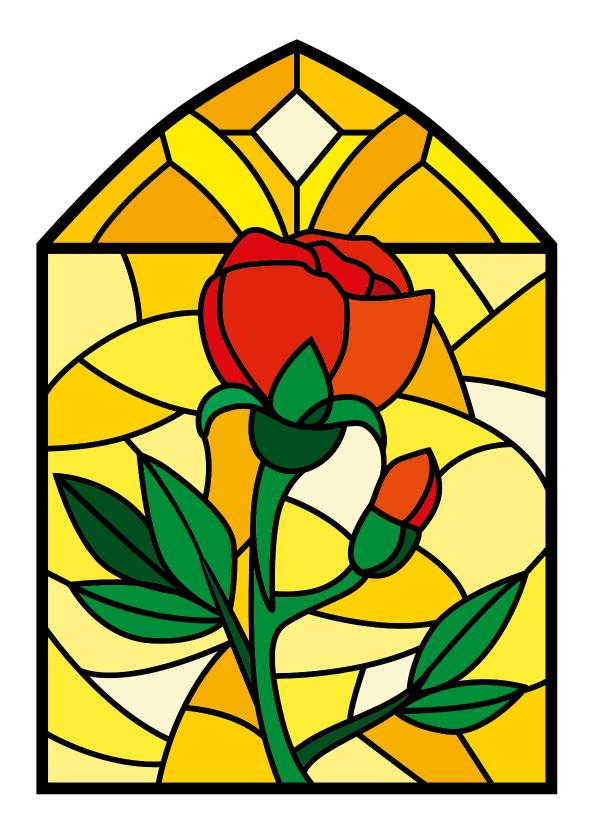
You can do all things through Christ who gives you strength, and if you commit this season to the Lord, you will see incredible things happen. Freedom is calling. Lead on!

Note Taking Section

Introduction

Note Taking Section		
	Life as you know is same. No matter u your faith walk, the challenge you to to truth—about God, about yourself.	where you are in a sis curriculum will a ke a step toward
	 It is for freedom Christ set us free. Paul wrote it in Galatians 5:1, and Jesus Himself said He came to earth so we may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). Just imagine life abundant. Not barely surviving, but truly living. It means days that begin with gladness and nights that end in peaceful sleep. It means days filled with hope, joy, and purpose. It is the kind of life God always intended for you to have. 	God wants a relationship with you and He sent his son, Jesus, to bridge the gar between earth and heaven so you could know Him. It may not be easy, but it will be rewarding. During this semester, you will be the one who decides how far you are willing to go to find freedom. Here is a promise from Jeremiah 29:13," If you seek Him with your whole heart, you will find Him." The pursuit of Freedom begins today.
		w the truth, and the ree." (John 8:32).

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Translation (NLT). James Version (Nl	erwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the New Living The other translations used in these materials are New King IKJV), New International Version (NIV), The Amplified Bible (AMP), tandard Bible (NASB), and The Message Bible (MSG).	



WEEK 1 SECTION ONE VIDEO

WEEK Section One Video

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. (Romans 8:3).

Overview

Give the participants a general outline of the Be Free semester, and let them know what to expect each week. Homework is an important part of the experience, so encourage them to make it a part of their weekly routine. Ask them to note questions or comments in their books, and encourage them to underline anything that stands out. Let them know not finishing the homework does not mean they should stay home. The semester is about creating a safe place for your participants to experience the presence of the Lord. As you introduce prayer, worship, and the Word, the Holy Spirit will reshape hearts. Remember, your role is facilitator, not lecturer. Through godly relationships people are able to connect to the heart of the Father.

Create a roster and distribution list. Go over housekeeping details such as start and finish times, book and retreat cost, etc. Set retreat expectations early and ask them to put these dates on their calendar.

It is extremely important for your group to begin and end on time each week. It is a simple act alone but will convey your respect for their time and let them know they can trust you. There may be times when participants need to stay after class to talk. Dismiss the class before you meet with these people. You will watch the Section One Video this week.

Main Focus

After salvation, we approach God in one of two different ways. We either try to earn our way to godliness (by "doing") or we receive (by "being") the indescribable gift - we have been made the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. We are either serving the Kingdom because we feel we have to do it or because we are excited we get to do it.

Living in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (TKGE) produces knowledge without godly wisdom. Knowledge, without understanding

WEEK Section One Video

 powerless to change this tree, we offer Go can never experience	uces death. The law reveals our sinful nature, but leaves us e. This leads an individual to feel shame and condemnation. In ad good works in exchange for an innocence and freedom were. The Tree of Life (TOL), we trade information about God for a
 present, and future s Father and be reshap	. It is here we accept the price has been paid for all past, hortcomings. We can now receive the extravagant love of th ped in His image from the inside out. Now, our new innocence from a grateful heart deeply in love with its maker.
 Taking the Lead	Discussion Points
 A great way to talk about the retreat	 Is this the first time you have heard of these two trees/ life styles?
 is to tell them how it changed	How does this make you feel?
you. If you have	 Which tree do you think you live in and why?
testimonies from past participants, consider sharing those with your group.	Talk about the difference between religion and relationship Give everyday examples.
this next week and r particularly as it rela	scious of their responses/thoughts to different situations mentally evaluate whether it is a TOL or TKGE response, ites to sin in their lives. They will know which tree they response to sin. Let willing participants share personal eek.
 Prayer Focus	
 Pray for them to small group; to be they would like to Pray for transpare a safe place. Pray for them to 	form good relationships with leaders and members of the se transparent where the are with the Lord and where to be. ency for your participants and for them to view the group of the strength of the time for this small group through attendance and the strength of the str
	all of your participants may be saved. They may have only gion. Pray the Holy Spirit will reveal any person who needs told of their life.

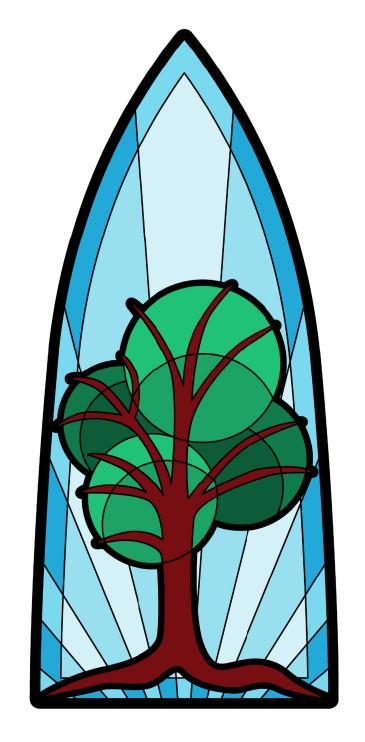
Participants Section

Note Taking Section "Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil....And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17, NIV). The Choice The TKGE says: Getting to God means I must_ The TOL says: Receive the fact Jesus has already_

WEEK Section One Video

Note Taking Section	"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39-40 NIV).
	The TKGE: Keeps you trying to get
	But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NIV)
	The TKGE says:The TOL says: This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:3, 12, NIV).
	Four Responses
	1. Fall in love If you love me, you will obey what I command. (John 14:15, NIV).
	2. Serve God through not"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." (Matthew 5:17, NIV).
	3. Respond to all sin with Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1, NIV).
	4. Guard your from going back.
	What are you going to do to be godly?
	This day I call the heaven and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19, NIV).

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 2 THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. (Jeremiah 33:3).

Overview

An intimate relationship with God is our deepest need. Religion and rules lead only to frustration and rebellion. The fruit from the TKGE works only on the external and has no real power to produce change.

The fruit from the TOL has its work internally and so affects our actions and motives. As we realize God is in love with us just as we are, we can love others and serve the Lord from a grateful heart.

For many people, this teaching is a new revelation. The new awareness can leave them feeling vulnerable. It is important to establish a safe place for them to share their feelings. You might say, "What is said here stays here. Do we all agree to this?" Doing so sets the ground rules for everyone. It lets people know they should not talk about what others discuss. The ultimate goal is for participants to be transparent. Transparency will open the door for the Holy Spirit to work.

Main Focus

The TOL is truth. The Bible has to be our ultimate authority and our ultimate truth. The enemy introduces gray areas in our lives, "Did He really say you will die?"

Fruit from the TKGE is a perversion of truth. The enemy has always tried to put a rift between God and man by questioning truth. The world does this by saying truth is relative. It is deadly to share the ideas and values of the world.

Most sin starts out as a single thought. For this reason we are told to take captive every thought and make each one line up with the word of God. The longer we entertain wrong ideas, the more likely we are to believe them. The fall of man came about as Adam tried to be in control and make his own choices. As we surrender all areas of our life to the Lord, we decrease the chance of making bad choices. Bad choices separate us from God; good choices draw us near to Him. At some point in our walk with the Lord, making good choices will stop being hard and start being our primary response. It happens as we embrace the fact that God is good and can be trusted.

Satan concentrated on Eve's limitations (not to eat of one tree) and not the extravagance of God's provision (to eat from all

 other trees). Today, he continues to try to impose on us this narrow view of the character of God.
 Luke 16:16 tells us the Law of Moses has been fulfilled and the new era of grace has begun. Discuss this with your group.
 Taking the Lead Discussion Points Tell your group about a personal experience with TKGE thinking.
 • Is this teaching changing the way you see God and the way you feel God sees you? Explain.
 What choices have you made that may have distanced you from God? Encourage them that their choice to join this small group was a good choice with good results to follow.
 Discuss the story of the young boy whose innocence is lost and how it affects his relationship with his parents.
 Take-Aways Ask them to share a TKGE incident from the past week. Encourage them to continue to be aware of long-standing thoughts or beliefs about themselves or God. Make sure these beliefs line up with what the Word says.
 Prayer Focus Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal TKGE thinking to your participants. Continue to pray for them to feel a part of the group and to finish strong. Pray that any wrong thinking about God and who He is will be shattered as the Lord moves in their lives. Pray that any wrong thinking about God and who He is will be shattered as the Lord moves in their lives.

Participants Section

"But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the gar- den—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." (Genesis 2:16 -17).

The Tree of Life is more than just a backdrop to a Bible story; it can be a way of life. To find out how, let's start at the beginning—Genesis, the first book of the Bible. In chapter 1, the first Scriptures tell us about the creation of our world and define God as the Creator and Ruler who has authority and dominion over all. The second story in the Bible tells us about Adam and Eve, the first sin, and the two trees in the Garden of Eden.

It's the second story for a reason.

Everything else in the Bible hinges on it. From it we learn humanity has to choose everyday between the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (TKGE).

Note Taking Section

THE TWO TREES

Let's look at some big ideas behind the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

TREE OF LIFE

Freedom
Grace
Eternal life
God is good
God is forgiving,
not judgmental

TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Bondage
The Law
Leads to death
God is only a judge
We are condemned

WEEK Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section			
	subject is mention to walk in commu freedom, we must may be separated	ed the first place our ed. In our journey nion with God and find out why we defrom God and a bondage. The first separation from is in Genesis 3. As dechoice by the dethis separation. Adam and Eve and enjoyed Bible says God in in the cool of imagine their ord revealing His an—it must have	personal relationship. The Word tells us God made these two humans in His image and gave Adam dominion over everything He had created. God gave Adam authority through the relationship He established. Without their relationship, there would have been no authority. When Adam and Eve sinned, they forfeited this authority. Through deception and rebellion, the serpent took the authority and dominion God had given to man. The Bible tells us Satan's desire was to exalt his throne above the stars of God (Isaiah 14:13). Until the fall of man, he lacked power and influence needed to set up rulership. Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world (John 12:31).
	THINK ABOUT IT Through Adam, sin entered the world, and caused death and separation.	God. You were His your evil thoughts of separation costs us Satan God gives to Praise God He made through Jesus that "He made peace w	John 5:19. The second of the

relationship with God	ny further, you should know the starting point to a and walking in freedom is accepting you are a sinner and has paid the penalty for your sin by shedding His blood	Note Taking Section
\	Write out John 14:6.	
The Bible says if you confess with your mouth and believe with your heart Jesus is Lord		
and that God raised Him from the dead, you	Write out Romans 10:13.	
will be saved. (Romans 10:9).		
Ask Yourself:	Has there been a time when I asked Jesus to come into my heart and be my Savior? If not, below is a simple prayer you can use to make sure you are ready for this life of freedom and enjoyment.	
	Dear Jesus, Thank you for dying on the cross and making a way for me to come to God. I receive this extravagant gift and ask you to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. I give you all of me and ask you to turn my life around for the glory of God. Forgive me of my sin, fill me with Your Spirit, and help me to live the life You died to give me, in Jesus name, Amen.	
	This is the first step to your life of freedom!	

WEEK 2 The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section		
	Separation	on and the First Sin
	trees that prod He placed the Good and Evil may freely eat of the Knowled	planted all sorts of trees in the garden—beautiful luced delicious fruit. At the center of the garden Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge ofBut the Lord God gave him this warning: 'You hany fruit in the garden except fruit from the Tree age of Good and Evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will Genesis 2:9, 16–17).
		s 3:1–8 and notice who is doing what. In verses 7 lid Adam and Eve do?
	Read Genesis	s 3:9. What did God do?
	·	Adam and Eve hid; God came looking for them. The Bible says r sinful man. God is in love with sinful man and sent His Son, Jesus,
	Ask Yourself	Are there things in my past that have caused me to want to hide from God?

Read James 4	4:8 and 2 Chronicles 15:2.	Note Taking Section
	ages teach us about our relationship with God?	
fruit was not just any	ed by eating the fruit of a tree that was forbidden for them. This fruit—it was the knowledge of good and evil. They mistakenly uld make them like God.	
Learning the truth ab	pout this fruit will help us avoid making this mistake.	
Ask	Have I used knowledge of God as the basis of my relationship?	
Yourself		
	and the funit of the Tree of the Knowledge of	
Good and Evil	out the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of	
1. The fruit is kno	owledge.	
	of this fruit as some sort of apple, but it's not. The fruit of this tree is e says: knowledge (information, data, ideas, world view, thought	
patterns); knowle	edge of good and evil. God was saying to Adam and Eve, "If	
change your	r way of thinking, it will create separation between us. If you	

WEEK 2 The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section		
	world view, you won't be able to understand Me and relate to Me." Satan says, "It won't hurt you to think like that." Note, God didn't say it's wrong to have knowledge. In fact, God said to Israel through Hosea the prophet, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6, NKJV). Aren't we glad when the surgeon has knowledge to perform an operation or the mechanic knows how to repair an engine?	"We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1, NIV). The issue isn't necessarily knowledge; rather, it's the motive behind its acquisition. In other words, why do we desire knowledge? Is it to gain God's wisdom and understanding, or is it to somehow exalt ourselves?
	According to Colossians 2:3 in Jesus?	3, what do we find hidden
	-	
	2. The fruit is deadly.	
	The Lord God gave him this warning: "You may freely eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die." (Genesis 2:16–17).	God." Satan tempted Eve with her desire to become like God. Often the desire to know is in direct opposition to the desire to trust. We can set out to gain all the information, all the ideas, and all the data needed to run our lives, and in a sense we will become
	Notice God didn't say the fruit is bad, He said it is deadly. Eating from the tree of knowledge, consuming knowledge, in your pursuit of godliness is deadly. Satan didn't tempt Eve with blatant rebellion. He said, "Go ahead	like God. We can control our lives and be self-sufficient, but in the end we lose our lives.

and eat this fruit. It will make you like

		Note Taking Section
Read Genesis 3:22–24. Why value from the Garden of Eden?	were Adam and Eve driven	
Adam and Eve didn't die physically when they ate from the Tree of	are ingested in our minds and then sin is conceived. How did the first sin	
Knowledge; they died spiritually. Through Adam's disobedience, death	come about? Eve talked to Adam about it—they had a conversation	
entered the entire human race, and we are all born spiritually dead in	and began working with the idea. Consume means to take something	
need of resurrection. The good news is through Jesus, we have access to the	outside of you and put it into yourself.	
Tree of Life. If we pursue Life Himself in our desire for godliness, we will	Parents especially understand the importance of this concept. For	
become truly like Him.	example, we don't want our kids watching horror movies because we	
3. The fruit is consumed.	know through their eyes, they can get something inside their minds that can	
	torment them for the rest of their lives.	
"The woman was convinced. The fruit looked so fresh and delicious, and it	We don't want them reading certain types of ideologies because we know	
would make her so wise! So she ate	if they become infected or polluted	
some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. Then	by reading the wrong kind of books, it could cause them to fall into ruin and	
he ate it too " (Genesis 3:6) Fating is	desnair Ideas are important	

not just putting food in your mouth. It means to consume or ingest. Ideas

WEEK 2 The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

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	Can you think of a personal danger of consuming certain	
	4. The fruit causes separation.	
	"The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amona the trees of the	they hid. But God was walking in the garden, searching for them, and called out, "Where are you?" The truth

Again, remember it was man who hid from God. Many have been taught Adam and Eve sinned and God in His holiness and His righteousness turned His back on them because His holiness could not stand to be in the presence of sinful man. But that's not what the Bible says. The Bible says Adam and Eve sinned, their eyes were opened, they covered up, and then

garden." (Genesis 3:8, NASB).

they hid. But God was walking in the garden, searching for them, and called out, "Where are you?" The truth is Adam and Eve made an incorrect judgment of God. He wasn't waiting behind a tree watching for them to fail so He could judge them. They actually judged Him! God is not on His throne holding an axe and waiting to cut us off. God is love (1 John 4:8), the Bible says love covers a multitude of sin (1 Peter 4:8). When we see His heart for us, we will run to Him instead of hiding from Him when we sin.

From Romans 8:38–39, name of Green to the love of Green to the love of Green the lov		Note Taking Section
Reasons why the fruit is deadly "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some	and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (Genesis 3:6, NIV).	
The Bible says the fruit of this tree is good for food, it is a delight to the eyes, and it is desirable to make one wise. How can that be so deadly? Eve assumed the fruit was good for food—in other words, it was very satisfying. What Eve thought would be good for her turned out to be deadly.	wisdom, or understanding—can be satisfying. If we can figure out a system of right and wrong and do it right, we can be quite satisfied by doing the right things. Why is this deadly? God says we can come to Him only through grace, by faith—not by works. You can't connect with God by simply doing more good things than bad things.	

WEEK 2 The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section		
	On several occasions Jesus rebuked the spiritual leaders and Bible scholars of His day for getting it all wrong. "You do not have His Word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the	love of God in yourselves." (John 5:38–42 NASB). It's a delight to the eyes. This kind of Tree of Knowledge thinking usually leads us to live by a set of rules that make us look very good on the outside to other people. The fruit is deadly because we become consumed with what others think of us rather than what God thinks.
	Look up Matthew 23:27. Wha	t does this verse mean to you?
	•	-
		in your life when all looked ou knew there was death on he here.

The fruit is deadly because it is desirable is not deadly. From the beginning, humo God is actually pleased with this desire. God appearing to King Solomon in a drado you want? Ask, and I will give it to yo wisdom to govern the nation of Israel ar Read 1 Kings 3:10–13. How did God respond to Sol	an beings have desired to be wise. In 1 Kings we have the account of eam at night and saying to him, "What ou!" Solomon asked for only one thing and the ability to discern good from evil.	Note Taking Section
Wisdom from above:	Wisdom not from above:	
Pure, peace-loving, gentle at all times, willing to yield to others, full of mercy and good deeds, shows no partiality, always sincere	Jealousy, selfishness, earthly, unspiritual, motivated by the devil	
When do we need wisdom? All the time! We are making decisions, and even the smallest ones can be made with wisdom from above. Using Godly wisdom produces the results listed above. James 1:5–8 says, "If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask Him, and He will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect	Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do." Worldly wisdom leads us to decisions to sin and therefore alienate us from God.	

WEEK Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section	Read James 1:13–15. What	is the progression of sin?
	a train on track, the more we entertain Word, the faster we go down a deadly go racing into deadly territory and cra can't see sin from the outside at the p hunger for God and His wisdom and k	gin with the act; it begins in our minds. Like a thoughts that don't line up with God's y track. If we don't stop the thoughts, we ash into an act that brings us harm. We oint it becomes sin, so we must develop a eep that hunger stirred up by having our d of God. Otherwise, we will find ourselves ealize it.
	 told you that you were naked?' the LC commanded you not to eat?' 'Yes,' A gave me who brought me the fruit, ar 	was afraid because I was naked.' 'Who DRD God asked. 'Have you eaten the fruit I dam admitted, 'but it was the woman you nd I ate it.' Then the LORD God asked the ing?' 'The serpent tricked me,' she replied
	Imagine a young teenage boy who has always been a delight to his parents. He's been bright-eyed and innocent. There's been no hesitation about him until one day when his mother notices a change.	sparkle gone from his eyes. He barely speaks to his parents and goes straight to his room. One day while cleaning his room, his mother notices pornographic magazines under his mattress. She begins to understand. Her innocent,

He becomes serious and angry and

begins to come home with droopy

shoulders, his head hung low, and the

wonderful, bright, lively son has

darkness and death inside of him."

He has been polluted; he is no longer a little boy. All the things he saw in the magazine were true — the issue is he didn't need to know. Because of what's inside him now, he can't relate to his parents the same anymore. He has become shameful. His parents haven't changed; it's he who has changed as he spent time looking at those pictures. His innocence has been polluted. Shame causes us to separate ourselves from God so we cannot operate in the freedom Christ has for us. Shame is a veil that comes between God and us. It covers us completely, even our eyes, so we can see only dimly who and where God is. God said to Adam and Eve. "Who told you that you were naked?"

His tone was most likely similar to that of the mother in the story above, with great sadness and angst, "Who gave you those magazines? You really shouldn't know that." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? You've eaten from the Tree of Knowledge, and it has polluted you."

Shame causes us to do all sorts of things that keep us from connecting with God. Shame is when we want to hide. Prior to eating the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve were naked and were not ashamed (Genesis 2:25). Afterwards they came up with the idea of sewing fig leaves together to cover themselves, and then tried to hide from God's presence in the trees of the garden.

Note Taking Section

THE RESULTS OF SHAME

- Covering up with religion and becoming works focused.
- Lying, deception, false pride.
- Making promises we can't keep.
- Getting our self-worth from the things we do.
- An inability to come to a place of honesty with God because we believe we have no true value.
- Concentrating on our sin instead of concentrating on our Savior.

Why is shame so deadly? It strips us of the power to change. It keeps us from receiving the provision God made for our sin through the blood of Jesus. There is a difference between guilt and shame. Guilt is about what we have done, but shame is about who we are. With guilt we can always get a fresh start. With shame we are caught in a noose because the problem stays with us. In fact, with shame we are the problem. The solution for getting rid of shame is seeing ourselves as God sees us.

WEEK Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section			
 	areas of you		John 1:9. Are there any with your parents When why?
 	Ask Yourself:	•	en overcome by shame? What steps o remove the barrier of shame from
		ade me do it; the ne made me do s by displacing re point the finger t good enough."	everything in terms of right and wrong. We say, "If my husband would just treat me right, I wouldn't be so unhappy and manipulative. If my family wasn't so backbiting, I wouldn't be so hurt. If everybody would just live like they are supposed to, everything would work out right."
	We notice otheWe blame ourse	er be good enough."	vn. just always been this way. I'll never
 		e others or ourselves w	vith victimization, we are powerless to

parents, When in your past, in even at churc mentality?" H	areas of your life—perhaps with your nare we to have shame and why? Others n your marriage, at work, with friends, or the where you have taken on a "victim ow should you change your way of rading that situation?	Note Taking Section
The TKGE is counterfeit to a relationship with God. Your identity is not based on your own efforts, but on the finished work of Jesus.	With shame and victimization, we're either the Pharisee or the woman caught in adultery (John 8). We're saying either "You're not good enough" or "I'm not good enough"—basing our relationship with God and others on good works and bad works. It's not the way He set it up. It's TKGE thinking, and it keeps us from changing and connecting with God. A reality we must understand is the devil does not want us to change. We must get to a point where, no matter what happens, we take responsibility for our own lives. We can no longer blame anyone else for our level of relationship with God! The fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil lacks the power to transform the heart. It can provide the facts and information, but it is powerless to give you Life.	

WEEK Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Note Taking Section	_
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	-
	"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the
	light of the world. If you follow
	Me, you won't have to walk
	in darkness, because you will
	have the light that leads to life."
	(John 8:12).
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Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	Note Taking Section



WEEK3 THE TREE OF LIFE

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. (Galatians 5:1).

Overview

This week, you will discuss living in the Tree of Life. It begins with selfexamination. The content will challenge participants to unpack what they think they know about God and their relationship with Him, and hold it up to Scripture to see if it is accurate and true. It may be painful for some, but the outcome is well worth the discussion! Understanding Tree of Life thinking will change every aspect of their lives. Help your group members learn to recognize lies they have believed about God and themselves, and then replace those false narratives with the Word of God. For example: Lie—"God is mad at me for what I did. He is punishing me." Truth—God's kindness leads us to repentance. (Romans 2:4) This is a powerful concept they can use long after your group ends.

Main Focus

Living in the Tree of Life requires a relationship with God, an understanding of the two trees (environments), and a transformed thought process. Our relationship with the Father is possible because of the cross. The relationship is not based on our worth; it is based on the worthiness of Jesus. No matter what has happened in your life, salvation puts you in right standing with God. When He looks at you, He sees you without sin.

In Romans 12:2, Paul says to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The word transformed is the Greek word metamorphoo (Strong's 3339) from which we get the word "metamorphosis." It is translated as the word "transfigured" in Matthew 17:2 the transfiguration of Jesus before His disciples. Jesus was transfigured in the glory of God. We, too, experience a metamorphosis when we spend time in the glory of our Father. Satan is the accuser of the brethren, God is not. God restores the innocence the world has taken from us or we have given away. The big lie from the enemy is our past sin has disqualified us from God's best, but the truth is God has already forgiven us and will accomplish His plans in our lives.

	ell your group	Discussion Points
c	about a time when Tree of ife thinking	Describe your relationship with God. What keeps you from drawing close to Him?
s	changed a lituation for ou	Think about this past week. Did you live in the TOL most days? Give examples for either answer.
		Jesus came to make us brand new, not better. Do we see ourselves this way?
T	aking the Lead	d
re	epent and quick to f	s to stay in the TOL. In the Tree of Life, we are quick to orgive; we offer solutions, not excuses, and we extend ation. We are goal-oriented, rather than needing to be
C	•	crucified with Christ), we become un-offendable. People age of us anymore because we live for the Lord and not
P 	a person who has han ncorrect thinking abound critical, they may	od the way that they see their earthly father. Therefore, d a difficult relationship with their earthly father may have out God. For example, if their earthly father was judgmental v see God as someone just waiting for them to mess up. en you are ministering to your group.
•	Pray that each me live in the TOL.	ember of your group understands that it is a daily choice to
•		eceive the grace and love afforded to them by the Father, is love and grace to others—especially those that they live
·	Pray for a restoration way of thinking.	on of their relationships, as they are enlightened to God's

Participants Section

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters." (Galatians 5:13).

Last week, we studied the two trees in the Garden of Eden and how they each represented a way of living. We explored how the TKGE and its deadly fruit led to shame and victimization. This week, we will look at the Tree of Life and its ability to set us free from incorrect thoughts about God and ourselves.

Much like beginning a weight training program to build up weak muscles that are weak and retrain those being used incorrectly, we as followers of Jesus have to build up our faith by reading God's Word and retrain our

thought processes to line up with Biblical truths. When you lift weights, you need a spotter to encourage and challenge you, to assist you when the burden is heavy, and it's exactly what this small group is designed to give you—leaders and fellow group members who help you learn how to truly live in freedom.

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Note Taking Section

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 As you progress through this course, you will be able to use Tree of Life thinking as a framework for the way you approach every situation you encounter. Remember God's commands were never meant to be burdensome. In fact as you grow closer to Him and learn to hear His voice, you will find His heart for you. His divine plan was made for your sake—not for His. He simply wants to protect you from very real danger, and He desires your success.

Note Taking Section		
	Write out Matthew 11:28–30.	
	Fruits of Living in the Tree of	Life
	The Tree of Life results in fellowship with God.	establishes the relationship. The only way to experience the abundant life is by truly knowing the living God. He
	"Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."	asked us to love Him, but only after His lavish display of love for us through the sacrifice of Jesus. "God showed
	(John 17:3, NIV).	how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we
	According to Vine's Bible Dictionary, "know" in this verse is the Greek word ginosko, which means to recognize,	might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent
	to understand, or to understand completely. It indicates a relationship. What is known of the other person is of	His son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." (I John 4:9-10). The Bible says in I John 4:19 the only reason we
	value and importance and	have any love at all is because He first loved us.
	God so loved us He made a blood	them up. This time God sealed the
	covenant with His son, Jesus, at the cross to make a way for us to be	covenant with the blood of His Son Jesus, so nothing could separate us
	in relationship with Him. The cross represents more than a sacrificial	from His love.
	death. It is a blood covenant God cannot break (Hebrews 6:17-18). In the	Fellowship with God results in innocence — not the other

Old Testament, God made covenants way around!

with man, and man always messed

"They realized they were naked." (Genesis 3:7, NIV) As we spend time walking with God, listening for His voice, talking to Him, obeying Him, worshipping and enjoying Him, we

will notice a transformation taking place, not only on the outside, but on the inside as well. We will become, in a sense, "naked" or transparent and unashamed before Him.

Note Taking Section

Nakedness, in Genesis 3:7, speaks of innocence. Adam and Eve were unaware of any reason to hide anything from God. They had no sinconsciousness. We might think of little kids running around with no clothes on after a bath. Childlike innocence is an amazing virtue. Adam and Eve's nakedness was part of the innocence and simplicity of their lives. They were actually clothed in the glory of God. Before they sinned, they had nothing concept Jesus talked about when He said we had to be like little children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 19:14). Children are not technically innocent; they just don't have any hesitation about them. They are not weighted down with guilt, shame, and burdens.

I Corinthians 14:20 (NIV) says, "Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil, be infants, but in your thinking, be adults." God wants us to be mature in our thinking, but for the kingdom of God to work in us in power, childlikeness must be an ingredient. To some, this may look like naivety or simple-mindedness, but it is actually a biblical way to live. Jesus says to be as shrewd as a snake and as innocent as a dove (Matthew 10:16). It is a mysterious and rare combination of which to be ashamed. It is the same for the world in which we live. Paul says in I Corinthians 1:27, "God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise." Dare to be misunderstood in your pursuit of friendship with God because only the pure in heart will see Him (Matthew 5:8).

Good works cannot produce innocence and fellowship with God. Innocence and fellow-ship with God produce good works.

Simple innocence is born out of a friendship with God. It means we rest in God. We abide in His favor and presence so when someone offends us, we can respond with kindness instead of anger. As we are being transformed into the image of God, the negativity of the world does not have an effect on our emotions. Once we understand that truth, the enemy has no ammunition. If we sin, we know how to receive forgiveness, and if someone offends us, we know how to forgive.

Note Taking Section		
	Read Matthew 5:39-44 and I passages, Jesus tells us how in innocence and freedom. reference, describe what liv	to live as a child of God, Using these scriptures as a
	-	
	-	
	According to 2 Corinthians do with our minds?	11:3, what will Satan try to
	<u>-</u>	Innocence is a conduit of God's power. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because
	THINK ABOUT IT	He has anointed meto preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to
	In the Tree of Life, your focus changes from your sin and shortcomings to God and His goodness. God restores your innocence	proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19, NIV).

Jesus said these words after His great temptation by Satan in the desert. He came out full of the Holy Spirit and power to begin His public ministry.

			Note Taking Section
we are filled with t abide in Jesus, we	ood news. What e anointed? It is the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit and become free from tess in our lives. We	God. His life will flow through us, and there will be nothing we cannot do! Innocence keeps our minds and hearts pure so we can see and understand God. As we see God and submit our lives to Him, we become equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17).	
	your city where	g your name where Jesus' you read the word	
The power of God will equip you for every good work.	branches. If a man bear fruit; apart from	5:5, "I am the vine; you are the remains in Me and I in him, he will m Me you can do nothing." (NIV). wer always produce the gifts and fruit	
	Innocence results in	n freedom.	
	5:1, NIV). This is the refall, but if we sin with forgiveness can be up. The issue of how on the degree of ur	at Christ has set us free." (Galatians mystery of godliness. We will sin and high the Tree of Life as our perspective, received easily and we can get back of quickly we get back up depends anderstanding we have in our hearts upleteness of God's forgiveness.	

Note Taking Section		Psalm 37:23-24	say happens when the godly
	and think about a lives. If you attend Tree of Life, you v about it. You will people, and the	d church in the vill love everything love the pastor, the worship, because f the appropriation	thinking in terms of the knowledge of good and evil will result in ideas such as "These songs are too long and too loud," "The preaching is too simple," "The children are too noisy," or "No one talked to me."
	Relationships chan standards; we are looking for people	ge in the Tree of Life. quick to extend forgi to meet our needs, v ngdom, so people ar	We no longer hold people to impossible veness, slow to take offense. Instead of ve look for ways to serve others. We live to no longer able to "take advantage of
	If there is a gap between where you are and where you long to be, take heart. Innocence and freedom are fruits from the Tree of Life, and they have always been God's plan for you.	source of life, secur should never be rel prayer. It is a mirac with His nature and Prayer will be powe will be a refreshing guilt-ridden sittings a day because it's	praying, or serving others should be a rity, strength, and delight to us. These igious duties to be performed. Think about le the God of the universe wants to fill us. His life as we simply dialogue with Him. erful in the Tree of Life. Reading the Bible of your spirit in the Tree of Life. No more where you plow through twenty chapters what Christians do. Religion says, "Do it or o says, "Do it and live!"
	Ask Yourself:	·	y innocent before God? What would it efellowship with God?

46 Be Free: Living In Freedom Everyday

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death." (Romans 8:1-2).

How to Live in the Tree of Life

They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed His glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them His law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping Him and receiving His wonderful promises. Romans 9:4 (NLT)

Now we know it is possible to be free from bondage in our thoughts, our actions, and our relationships with God and people, let's take a look at some powerful truths to help us form a firm foundation on which to build a life both abundant and free.

In order to move out of the shadow of the TKGE and into the light of Tree of Life living, we must know who Jesus is and who we are because of Him. To help us understand fully, we need to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds." (Romans 12:1-3). Let's take a look at a few things to help you live in the tree of life. Relationship with the Father is essential to living in the Tree of Life. Man lost his right relationship with God when Adam sinned; Jesus restored the relationship through the cross. In order to enjoy the right relationship with God, we must receive His extravagant love for us. Romans 5:8 says God expressed His great love for us in this way: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Before we looked for God, He made a way for us to be in relationship with Him. He made the first move.

Because of the finished work of the cross, we are declared righteous before God. Romans 5:1 (NIV) says, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Many of us have been serving God out of duty or fear—much like a servant. A servant has an obligation to do what is expected.

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section		
	He is required to be faithful or suffer con is part of the family. A son is faithful becar Through Jesus, God now sees us as sons	ause of the love he has for his father.
	Read Galatians 4:7 and 2 Co God say about your identity	
	Ask Yourself: Do I live my life as a	a son or as a servant?
	God has lavished His love on us by calling us His children (I John 3:1). Just as our natural relationships are strengthened through time and fellowship, our relationship with God will become stronger and more meaningful as we spend time in prayer, read the Word of God, and experience communion with other	believers. Only in the Tree of Life, we realize these tasks are because of relationship, not responsibility. Falling in love with Him turns the idea of duty into devotion. it is a beautiful and wonderful thing.
	Recognize the two environments where you can live: the Tree of Life or TKGE. Knowing you can choose a Tree of Life response and attitude in every circumstance is crucial to walking in freedom. It is a daily choice to respond with life and godliness. Throughout the	we should live a life that produces godly fruit. It can only be done only by choosing to live God's way – in the Tree of Life. In Matthew 11, Jesus compares His way of living to the religious Pharisees. The Pharisees were legalistic and self-

decisions with the fruit of ungodly

decisions. It is clearly God's desire that

righteous. Their approach to God was

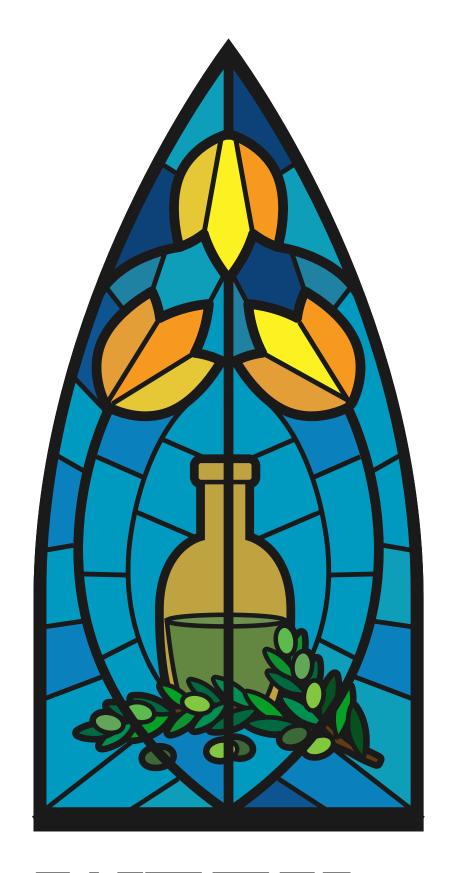
in the strict keeping of all Jewish laws.

		Note Taking Section
Read Matthew 11:28-30 and write of the heavy burden that comes from		
the law.		
Read Deuteronomy 30:19. Moses challenged the		
path they would follow. One path led to life, and exhorted them, "Now choose life, so that you and		
Ask Yourself: Do my daily responses and de what tree do I live?	ecisions bring life to others? In	
giving decisions every day. Start the wisdom.	your motives, and ask Him for Though retraining the way we	
day with prayer, and throughout think and grow decision or situation, press pause, our failur		
decision or situation, press pause, our failur		

Note Taking Section		
	 Renew your mind to what the Word of God says is true. Real change happens when we know what the Word of God says about our lives. Many times our worldview and past experiences shape our version of truth. We cannot make 	the Bible line up to what we think is true, but we can line up our truth with the Bible. In order to do this, we must consume the Word. Changing our internal truth will change our external responses.
	Romans 12:2 (NIV) says "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will." The pattern of this world will lead to death. God's will leads to life. 2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us every thought and action we have needs to be examined for godly accuracy. If it does not line up with what the Bible says, we must take it captive and make it obedient to the Word of God. It will become a way of life as	we practice putting God's Word ahead of our feelings and beliefs. In other words, don't just read the Bible, let it read you. In Ephesians 4, Paul says we should let the Holy Spirit renew our thoughts and our attitudes and to put on our new self which is created in the very likeness of God in righteousness and holiness. It is a choice we must make. We must choose to renew our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs in God's word and we must choose to put on holiness and righteousness.
	Read Philippians 4:8 and wri	te out a way to renew
	Have you ever heard someone say they can't help what they think? It's not true. No longer will we allow the enemy free reign in our minds! Choose	that does not line up with Scripture, and meditate on the life-giving words of God. God. Remember God loves you, and He is for you. Grace was His idea.

today to take hostage every thought

	Note Taking Section
Journal What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK4 SPIRITUAL ORDER

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14, NIV),

Overview

We are three-part beings; our spirit which was made alive at salvation, our soul (mind, will, emotions), and our body. Each part of our threepart makeup strives to lead. The part getting the most attention will be the strongest and assume control. The question is simple. Who calls the shots in your life? Spiritual order is the key to living in the Tree of Life. With our bodies submitted to our soul, our soul submitted to our spirit, and our spirit submitted to the Holy Spirit, we alian ourselves to hear from God and to walk in the spirit. When our lives are ordered, we are able to realize spiritual protection, growth, and power.

We stay in Spiritual order by knowing our new identity in Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Main Focus

It is a daily choice to submit our body and soul and to be led by our spirit. It does not feel natural or easy at first, but will quickly become a new way to live. Habitual sin is not consistent with being led by the spirit. It is an example of the body and soul calling the shots. The less you feed your body and soul, the weaker they will become. In contrast, the more you feed your spirit, the stronger it will become. Spiritual order is simply feeding your spirit more than your soul or body.

Spiritual order is vitally important to your participants. Make sure no one leaves Section 1 without a firm grasp of this concept. You may need to invest more time to further discuss this principle with those who need it. Galatians 5:16 says by walking in the spirit, we will not fulfill the desires (lust) of the flesh. The opposite is true as well. If you do not walk in the spirit, you will walk in the lust of the flesh.

 Taking the Lead	Discussion Points
 Ask the Holy Spirit to help you think of a fresh way to explain spiritual order, and share it with your group.	 What are the benefits of walking in the spirit? To hear God's voice clearly (John 10:1-5), for spiritual protection (2 Timothy 2:26), to defeat the stronghold of sin (Galatians 5:16). What area of life do you feed the most? What are some ways we can feed our spirits?
 design. Talk about w specific Scripture for	e has at least a simple understanding of their three-part ways you maintain spiritual order. Challenge them to find a r an area in their life that needs to be touched by the Father Scriptures Appendix).
 Pray for hearts of right desires. Pull down strongly the Lord. Some of your per relationships for each of the strong the strong	reveal and reconcile any areas not in spiritual order. If flesh instead of stone; and new hearts are consumed with sholds that have exalted themselves above the word of ople may not have Christian friends. Pray for godly each participant. Indunderstand the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Participants Section

Note Taking Section "Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again." (I Thessalonians 5:23). To live daily in the Tree of Life, you this is what we desire, this type of life will need to know two things. First, is not natural for us. Since the fall in God designed you with three distinct the garden, we have battled a sin parts, and second, you need to nature warring against our desire to be embrace the principles of spiritual holy. The apostle Paul said there is an order. These truths will help you not internal struggle continually going on only find pathways of righteousness between the desire to do right and the but also learn how to walk in them. propensity to do wrong. As believers, we long to live a life of fellowship with God. But even though Write out Romans 7:21-23.

Note Taking Section	
	God has created us with three distinct parts:
	1. A spirit that must be redeemed
	2. A soul that must be restored
	3. A body that must submit
	At salvation, our spirit is made alive in Christ and immediately put into right standing with God (Romans 3:24, 5:1). The Bible calls the process justification: just-as-if-l-had-never-sinned. However, the soul and body will require time and effort to be conformed to the image of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13). The gradual process of doing so is called sanctification.
	It is God's desire that we be transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory. We must learn to hear His voice and be led by His Spirit.
	Write out 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.
	In Galatians 4:19, Paul mentions sanctification as a process. How long this
	process takes depends on how we engage with the Word of God, accept it as absolute truth in our lives, and apply it to all of our circumstances.

The Spirit		Note Taking Section
The Spirit Did you know you are a spiritual being won earth and not a physical being with a clan is for our spirits to become the stromoe the "command center" of who we come the "command center" of "comman	a temporary spiritual experience? God's agest part of our three-part design and	
Christ. He forgave us all our charge of our legal indebte	h, God made you alive with sins, having canceled the edness, which stood against has taken it away, nailing it	
The blood of Jesus has forever purchased our capacity for friendship with God. It was the price God paid so we could be reconciled back to Him and to have the fellowship Adam once enjoyed (2 Corinthians 5:18). Isn't it exciting? The moment we are saved, we are made alive in Christ, forever redeemed and made righteous before the Father. Along with the gift of eternal life, we receive the Holy Spirit and immediately	have the ability to be in relationship with God. In short, the cross of Christ bridges the chasm of death and gives us a way to have fellowship, communication, and access to the Tree of Life. Just as a bride and groom are united in matrimony and become one; at salvation, your spirit and the Spirit of Christ are united and become one.	
Write out 1 Corinthians 6:17.		

Note Taking Section		
	/ 1511 0 0 1 5 0 11 1	g my spirit is redeemed and is in right Father change the way I see myself?
	 Now being one with Christ, we have the ability to understand spiritual truths and discern right from wrong. We can adjust our lives to hear the voice of God. It is much like tuning a dial to pick up a radio station. Sometimes Read 1 Corinthians 2:14, and 	there may be static in the airway (distraction, confusion, fear, etc.), but if we continue to seek the Lord and His way of doing things, our spirit will rise above the static and we will be able to tune in to the broadcast of truth.
	accept the things that come	
	The Soul	
	The soul is one of God's most beautiful creations. It enables us to experience relationships and appreciate the beauty of our surroundings. We have been made in the image of God with the capacity to think, reason, and express emotions. God could	 Our souls are made up of three parts: the mind, which thinks and reasons. the will, which makes choices. the emotions, which believe, feel, and remember.
	have programmed us to do and be whatever He wanted, but instead He agave us the ability to choose.	Let's take a look at some examples from the Bible of things related to the soul.

Ask Yourself:	Are my thoughts driven by emotion?	
	Write out Joshua 24:15.	
	Write out Psalm 139:14.	
	Write out Psalm 119:167.	
God.		
created in the very image of		
THINK ABOUT IT We have been	Write out Proverbs 2:10.	
		Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section			
	The Body In Genesis 2:7, we lead our bodies from the acts as a temporary and contains our so Corinthians 6:19 says the temple of the HOld Testament, the was housed in the inthe Temple called the At the death of Jest Temple was torn and the sign of the HOLD Testament and the Temple called the At the death of Jest Temple was torn and the sign of the HOLD Testament and the sign of the sign of the HOLD Testament and the sign of the HOLD Testament and the sign of the	e earth. The body y house or shell oul and spirit. First ys our bodies are loly Spirit. In the presence of God nner sanctuary of the Holy of Holies. us, the veil of the	God moved out of a structure and into the hearts of all believers. Just as we would not go to church and shatter the windows and destroy the furniture, we should not do anything to intentionally harm our bodies; they are special, designed by God, and given in order for us to carry out the plans He has for us on this earth.
	Read Psalm 1 about you?	39:13-18. Wha	it does verse 14 say
	In a surrendered life, we're not looking for loop-holes in the law but rather falling more in love with our Savior and His plan for our life.	The Bible says to be getting anything it far can I sin and st. The snare with sin it looking to fulfill the us to need satisfactin the moment, the it increased intensi	ade up of appetites, both good and bad. e careful of any sin that leads to our flesh wants. Often people want to know: How ill enjoy the benefits of God's blessing? Is it never satisfies. We are constantly e next craving. Carnal desires will cause ction, and though we may satisfy them the craving soon returns and brings with ity. The cycle will repeat itself time and treak it by the power of the Holy Spirit.
	Ask Yourself:	Are my actions driv	en by my cravings?

		Note Taking Section
Read I Corinth	ians 6:12 (NIV), and fill in the blanks.	
"Everything is	permissible for me—but not	
everything is_	•	
Everything is p	ermissible for me—	
but		
THINK ABOUT IT You were bought	Another real consequence of sin is the ripple effect. A filter for sinful actions should be: How will this action affect those around me? We should rehearse daily the	
with a price, and your bodies no	consequences of sins and how they would affect our spouse, our family, and our friends. Would your actions	
longer belong to you (I Corinthians	cause another to stumble or be offended?	
6:20). You belong to Jesus who	Read 1 Corinthians 8:9 from The Message Bible and hear the heart of our Father:	
purchased not only your freedom but		
also your life with His blood.	"But God does care when you use your freedom carelessly in a way that	
	leads a Christian, still vulnerable to	

those old associations, to be thrown off track."

Spiritual Order WEEK /

Note Taking Section		
	Ordered Living	Spirit
		Soul
		Body
	Spiritual order provides a framework for living in the Tree of Life. It means you live with your spirit united with God, and your soul and body submitted to your spirit. In other words, your spirit (which is now one with God) calls the shots, and the soul and body follow. So here's the real question, if I am	your spirit is not in the lead. The area we give the most attention we become the most influential. Your can take the lead only if you feed more than your soul and body. The world around constantly feeds of soul through everything we see and the part And our bodies if standard let us

saved, why do I still struggle with sin? The answer is found in the process of sanctification and the principle of spiritual order. When you are born again, you receive everything you need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), but you may still struggle because /ill spirit it

ur hear. And our bodies, if starved, let us know they are hungry. If we withhold gratification from our souls and our bodies, they get loud. Our spirit, on the other hand, when not fed, gets quiet. We have to be intentional to feed our spirit.

Ask Yourself:

What am I doing to feed my spirit?

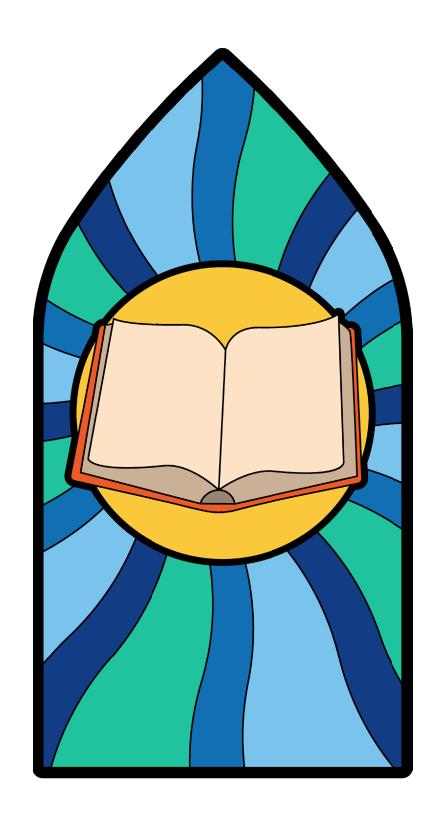
		Note Taking Section
Who Is in Control?		
The soul and the body are complex and can often be confusing, especially since we are used to them taking the lead. Let's consider the following: Very early in life we learn to take instruction from our souls. We have all seen the toddler throw himself on the floor and demand his own way. He is being led by his emotions when	he holds his breath until a parent gives in to his demands. We might think this only happens in the lives of children, but adults can possess these same tendencies. Have you ever heard someone say, "If it feels good, do it" or "I don't feel like doing that"? These examples are the epitome of a soul-led life.	
Read Galatians 5:19-21 and soul-led nature.	list the works of the	
According to Galatians 6:8, valife that gratifies the body?	what is the result of living a	

Note Taking Section		
	When the Holy Spirit control this kind of fruit in us: love, jokindness, goodness, faithful selfcontrol. (Galatians 5:22-	oy, peace, patience, Iness, gentleness, and
	According to Galatians 6:8, who lives a spirit-led life?	what happens to a person
	-	
	-	
	Daily Living	
	Living in spiritual order brings with it incredible benefits, such as protection, spiritual growth, and power to overcome obstacles in our lives. It is dangerous to live outside of spiritual order. When we choose to do things	our own way, our lifestyle opens a door for the enemy to operate in our lives. There is protection from the enemy when we choose to do live life God's way and give control of our lives to Him.
	Read Psalm 91. According to afforded the benefits of prot	
	-	

We want to do things God's way, but whe short or give in to temptation? We distart shame and condemnation, but that's Tk bring condemnation but rather conviction repentance, which means we "turn and	nce ourselves from God. We feel (GE thinking. Remember God doesn't on. Godly sorrow for sin will lead us to	Note Taking Section
Write out Psalm 66:18-20.		
When you're out of spiritual order, stop and repent. Then, ask for AND receive His grace. It is the kindness of the Lord	Staying in Order Every single day we face decisions, and the choices we make dictate the	
that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Remember: He is the God who came looking for Adam and Eve.	lives we lead. So how do we make good decisions? We need to change the way we think. Knowing your identity is also	
	a key to being led by the Spirit. Think about who you are in Him.	
Write out Romans 12:2.		
Write out 2 Corinthians 5:17.		

Note Taking Section	
	Write out Ephesians 1:4.
	To walk in spiritual order, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. He is our counselor, our friend, our guide, and the One who reveals truth. Start getting to know Him today. In your new relationship with Him, Bible reading will become more enjoyable, worship more intimate, prayer more powerful, and living in the
	Tree of Life more tangible and exciting. When walking with Jesus, life is abundant indeed— and it is only the beginning!

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 5 SECTION TWO VIDEO – NOTES

WEEK 5 Section Two Video

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. (Titus 2:11-12, NIV).

Overview

This section begins with the section two video. It has three major components: surrender, forgiveness, and the power of the spoken word. Jesus came not only to give us life, but rich, abundant life overflowing into the dry places of others. This powerful kind of living requires total surrender of our lives. Forgiveness is a type of surrender and is a condition for walking in the fullness of all God offers us. When we start speaking the Word of God over our circumstances, power is released, and our lives begin to manifest the kind of change of which we have only dreamed.

Main Focus

Surrendering our possessions, relationships, and ourselves to the Lord pulls us away from our natural comfort zone. As we develop a history with God, we realize He is a God who can be trusted. We begin to see anything we hold to tightly becomes our responsibility. By releasing all things to God, we give Him permission to intervene in our affairs. Doing so takes the pressure off of us to always do the right thing or make things happen.

Hebrew 4:11 says to strive to enter into the rest of God. We cannot rest while carrying the cares of this world. The ability to rest in the Lord is spiritual warfare. Forgiving others is not a request from the Lord. By releasing those who hurt us to the Lord, we reinforce the truth that His grace is enough. Never sacrifice spiritual order for justice. The price is too high. Forgiving ourselves is absolutely necessary for forgiving others and thus living in the Tree of Life.

Nothing changes our spiritual lives like understanding the power of words. The goal is simple. Help participants understand the power of words and they are accountable for how they use words.

WEEK Section Two Video

 is worldly. In order to	e Thinking is the counterfeit to Words of Life. Positive thinking a speak Words of Life, we must find out what the Word of a circumstances and allow it to be our confession.
Taking the Lead Tell your group about a time you changed a circumstance by changing your words.	 Discussion Points Are there areas of your life you have not surrendered to the Lord? Why are you holding on to them? What would you lose by letting go? What would you gain? Have you ever thought about your words having power? Do you speak words of life? Words of death?
a history with God. The Next, talk about are participants to surresurrender the harder these principles (surrorder by feeding out the Prayer Focus Ask the Lord to start the surror order by feeding out the surror or order by feeding out the surror or or order by feeding out the surror or	way to record the faithfulness of God and help to documentalk about the areas of our lives which are easily surrendered as of our lives which are harder to surrender. If needed, ask under the easier areas first and watch what happens. Later, or areas. Remember to communicate to your participants all render, forgiveness, words of life, etc.) help us stay in spiritually spirit, and not our soul/body.
 Ask the Lord to n they speak and 	st the Lord with their whole hearts. nake them aware of the connection between the words the condition of their hearts. eak words of life over themselves, their families, and their

Participants Section

"My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." (Proverbs 4:20-23, NIV).

"...The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV).

Four Blockages of the Heart

1.

"But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." (James 3:14-16, NIV).

2.

"Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come..." (Luke 17:1, NKJV). An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel." (Proverbs 18:19, NIV).

3.

"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." (Proverbs 18:21, NIV).

4.

"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean." (Mark 7:21, NIV).

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	
	Three Steps to Transforming the Heart
	I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezekiel 36:26-27, NIV).
	1. Invite the Holy Spirit to Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24, NIV).
	2. Invite the Holy Spirit to Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10-11, NIV).
	3. Invite the Holy Spirit to Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18, NIV).

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	
souther. When is the hory spill saying to you.	



WEEK 6 A LIFE OF SURRENDER



Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. (2 Samuel 22:31).

Overview

Our hesitation to hand over everything to God reflects a lack of trust and understanding of who He is. As we grow in the Lord, we realize God is trustworthy. He always wants the best for His children. We base our prayers on our past and the present. The Lord bases His answers on our present and future. He sees what is up ahead and knows what we will need to succeed.

Salvation is free; discipleship costs you everything. Encourage your group to be life-long disciples. Share with them ways you pursue God. Remind them the pursuit of God strengthens our spirit-man, thereby helping us live in spiritual order.

Main Focus

There are three wills: God's will (always best), our will (may be good), and Satan's will (always destructive).

We should come into the Kingdom with the heart of a child. Children do not worry about the things of the day. They know their parents will supply all they need. In the same way, worry and stress should not dictate our actions or words. Instead, we submit all we are to the Lord, and He becomes our provision.

Complete trust comes through relationship. In this life, we trust those who have earned our trust. As we mature in faith, we realize He has been and always will be faithful.

We are created to worship the Lord. Worship is a way to realign our thinking. In the presence of God, our problems of life grow smaller as the Lord is magnified and our spirits are strengthened. Lucifer was the anointed angel who covered the throne with praise and worship. Notice the Lord did not replace him after he fell. Instead, God created a people to lift up holy hands to Him. He is enthroned on our praises. We took the enemy's place. No wonder Satan is mad. We have his job!

Taking the	Discussion Points
Your weekly worship is demonstrating to participants how to enter into the presence of God. Teach them the importance of making this a part of their lives outside the group.	 Read Matthew 6:27-33 aloud. Much of our time is spent gaining or maintaining things. If you were to let go of material things and live for God, how would it change your life? Go over the six ways to stay un-offended. Let participants take turns sharing which one spoke to them and why. When we're offended it means a "right" has been violated in our lives. Yet, with our lives laid down for Christ we have no rights to violate! Discuss the freedom that comes from this understanding. Encourage them to see the real battle beneath the offense. How can we respond in a life-giving way to an offense? Of the three things (ourselves, our relationships, and our things) we must surrender to God, which is the greatest struggle for you to surrender and why?
 times their soul and I	ants in their pursuit of spiritual order. Ask them to be aware of body call the shots and times their spirit was the strongest of consider a brief explanation of fasting here.
 •	an area of their lives not fully surrendered to the Lord. Let and commit to pray about it this week.
 make sure they have this during the week	earning about living a life without offense, the enemy will e an opportunity to be offended. Tell them to be aware of and to be ready to respond with their new information on n to quiz them about this next week.
 throne room of G	derstand they have been invited to come boldly into the God. now them how to enter into His Presence.

Participants Section

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV).

Note Taking Section

The word surrender brings to mind many pictures, perhaps a white flag waving above the sails of a ship or a troop of outnumbered soldiers with their hands raised. Often, we associate surrender with defeat, but when it comes to a life with Christ, the act of giving up control to Him is actually the beginning of our freedom.

A life of surrender requires trust, and trust is developed in the context of relationship. Would you allow a stranger to care for your children or watch over your home while you were on a vacation?

No, of course not. Trust is earned, so until you have an understanding of a person's character, it is impossible to trust him or her with some-thing of value.

Jesus when we understand what He did for us. He left heaven and came to earth; He felt hunger, hurt, and rejection; He was beaten and crucif and three days later arose from the grave—all so He could prove His love earn our trust, and be in a relationship with us.

In order to surrender our lives to God, we must believe He is good and is worthy of our trust. For many of us, it is easier said than done, and it is often due to doubt and disappointment from past experiences with people or churches. Our hearts can become weary and hardened by such things, but there is hope! We can begin to trust Jesus when we understand what He did for us. He left heaven and came to earth; He felt hunger, hurt, and rejection; He was beaten and crucified, and three days later arose from the grave—all so He could prove His love, earn our trust, and be in a relationship with us.



ection	
Write out Psa	lm 119:68.
getting to know a way. It could inclu the water. The key you as you do thin	to know Him better, you need to do what you would do when friend - spend time with Him. It doesn't have to look a certain de going for a long walk through autumn leaves or sitting by is to invite Him into your life. The Lord will reveal Himself to ags that feed your spirit, like studying the Word, seeking Him in ag relationships with like-minded friends.
Write out Jan	nes 4:8.
My ways are	he heavens are higher than the earth, so higher than your ways and My thoughts your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9).
	Codia way of daing things pay not always so an algar but
THINK ABOUT IT	God's way of doing things may not always seem clear, but when we make the choice to trust and obey Him first, we set

His way of doing things.

the steering wheel because it involves giving up control. However, as a believer, the only way you can get to your God-given destination is to fully surrender your life and adopt

		Note Taking Section
Write out Rom	ans 10:17.	
Ask Yourself:	Are there areas of my life I have not surrendered to God? Is trust the reason?	
THINK ABOUT IT A trial with God	An Epic Journey	
in charge is	God wants to make our lives smoother by being Lord of all. Only then can we walk in spiritual order. Everything in our	
smoother than a victory when we	lives that we decide to hold onto becomes our responsibility to maintain. However, if we surrender all areas of our life	
are in charge.	to Him, He will partner with us on this journey and bring us	
	safely and completely to our final destination. Three areas we need to surrender to God: our things, our relationships, and ourselves	
Read the follo	wing verses, and write down what Jesus	
	be willing to let go of to be His disciples.	
Luke 14:33		
Luke 14:26		
Luke 14:27		



an was created as a worshipper and we will worship what we value e most. In Exodus 20:3-4, God told e Israelites not to place any gods efore Him or make any kind of idol.	sort, but it can also be anything we desire more than God. Idols can be hobbies, sports, jobs, or even people. It is not wrong to enjoy or even admire such things, but they are unworthy of
arved statue or something of that	taking top priority. If we want to walk in spiritual order, God must be first.
Seek the Kingdom of God of ghteously, and He will give eed." (Matthew 6:33).	
Nore or Less	
eing consumed with things is called aterialism. When materials become e priority of our lives, we become ctims to the pressure and stress in the ce to have more. The enemy then	has an opening to attack our minds and emotions with incessant thoughts about what we have and what we want. The more we have, the more attention and care we have to give to our stuff.
ook up the following verses. ings and money the place	
atthew 13:22	
evelation 3:17	
Timothy 6:9-10	
	metimes we think of an idol as a rived statue or something of that seek the Kingdom of God of the ghteously, and He will give ed." (Matthew 6:33). Nore or Less sing consumed with things is called aterialism. When materials become entire priority of our lives, we become etims to the pressure and stress in the coe to have more. The enemy then sook up the following verses, ings and money the place atthew 13:22

		Note Taking Section
Ask Yourself:	Is there anything in my life that is more important than God?	
Let's take a le	ook at God's perspective on our wealth:	
the good he	ood thing to receive wealth from God and alth to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God." 5:19).	
and not to tre Their trust sho	who are rich in this world not to be proud ust in their money, which is sounreliable. Ould be in God, who richly gives us all we enjoyment." (1 Timothy 6:17-18).	
part of every	ORD with your wealth and with the best thing you produce. Then He will fill your rain, and your vats will overflow with good erbs 3:9-10).	
THINK ABOUT IT	We honor God with our wealth because it all comes from Him.	



Note Taking Section		
		salm 62:10, Hebrews 13:5, and Spirit to show you how these Record your insights here.
	-	
	- -	
	Relationship Problem	
	Did you know relationships can come between with family, friends, coworkers, pastors, chenemies, but whether good or bad, they our relationship with the Lord.	nurch members, neighbors, and even
	Read Genesis 22:1-18	
	-	
	In this passage, Abraham faces an almost inconceivable situation. He has waited decades for a big promise to be fulfilled— a promise that he would be the father of nations. In	with a son, Isaac. The child grows and so does Abraham's joy, and then one day, God tells Abraham to sacrifice the boy on an altar. Surely Abraham had questions. He loved his son very

Abraham's old age, God blesses him

much—but he also trusted God.

The Bible tells us Abraham rose early the next morning to obey God's command. In other words, he did not try to delay things or be as numerous as the stars in the sky and find a way out; there was no hesitation in his conduct. By a great act of faith, he placed Isaac on the altar and would have followed clearly hear the voice of the Lord. Like through on the command if an angel had not stopped him. God saw Abraham's obedience, provided an alternate sacrifice, surrender them to Him.

and blessed him with a family heritage unlike any other. His descendants would the sand on the shores. Because Abraham walked in submission to God, he could Abraham, God's blessing can flow from us to every relationship we have if we readily

Note Taking Section

Ask Yourself:

Do I have a relationship that has come between God and me?

Another principle that will allow us to have godly relationships is to stay free of offense. Our most difficult relationships to surrender may be the ones where there is offense and unforgiveness. We will study this more

next week, but for now, consider this: What if you gave up your "right to be right" and instead chose to be unoffended no matter the situation?

Footsteps To **Follow**

Ways to stay unoffended by studying the life of Jesus.

Always remain grateful. It changes our attitude, by keeping us aware of God's provision and blessing.

Give others their freedom. Don't try to control others. People need freedom to make their own decisions. Sometimes they make good ones; sometimes they make bad ones. Either way, it is their

decision. Make decisions that promote life in others. When someone offends you, it may seem natural to ignore the person or pay back wrong, but Jesus says there is a better way. Choose to speak and do things that reveal the Tree of Life. How they respond is up to them. Trust God

to bring justice when an offense comes. Vengeance belongs to the Lord. None of us really wants true justice or what we really deserve—we'd rather have grace! Dedicate Time to the Lord. Find refreshing in prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. God's presence brings change.



Note Taking Section

I Surrender All

There are many areas of our own lives to surrender to God including plans, goals, pleasures, ambitions, hurts, the future, the past, selfishness, ego, sin, pride, physical appearance, lust, anger, fear, and health. Even unforgiveness can fall under the category of "self," because holding on to an offense is essentially saying we have a right to withhold grace from someone. This type of pride is an idol that will cause a wedge between God and us.

Surrendering does not mean we have no goals or ambitions. On the contrary, God is the One who puts desires in our hearts. It doesn't mean our personality has to drastically change or we need to become someone else. However, it does mean we submit ourselves to His will and join with Him in His plans for us.

Ask Yourself:

Have I surrendered my past, present and future to God? Do I trust His way is better than my own?

Trust & Obey

Many years ago John Henry Sammis wrote the lyrics to a now famous hymn: "Trust and obey for there's no other way / To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." Those two words, trust and obey, sum up what it means to surrender.

As we walk through this life, many things will try to take the lead and capture the number one spot on our list. Surrendering daily will keep us walking down the right path. We won't turn to the right or to the left because of distractions or temptations because we will hear the voice of the Lord saying, "This is the pathway, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21).

Spiritual Order in Action

Read Romans 12:9-19 below. Underline the actions. How would your life change if you lived life this way?

- Don't just pretend that you love others.
- Really love them.
- Hate what is wrong.
- Stand on the side of the good.
- Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
- Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.
- Be glad for all God is planning for you.
- Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful.
- When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out.
- And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.
- If people persecute you because you are a Christian, don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.
- When others are happy, be happy with them.
- If they are sad, share their sorrow.
- Live in harmony with each other.
- Don't try to act important, but enjoy the company of ordinary people.
- And don't think you know it all!
- Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.
- Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.
- Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible.
- Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God.
- For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord.

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 7 FORGIVENESS

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

Give me happiness, O Lord, for I give myself to you. O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. (Psalm 86:4-5).

Overview

Unforgiveness may be the biggest reason for the bondages that people face. Unforgiveness—of others or of self—is an epidemic in our culture. We have given it a place in our lives for so long it just feels wrong to let people off the hook. When we learn to forgive like Jesus does, our lives, and the lives of those around us, will soar to new heights.

We may be slow to forgive because we have an incorrect definition of forgiveness. Helping your group to understand what forgiveness is not will allow them to release those who have offended them. Allow your participants to talk about their feelings, and be sensitive to the fact there are people who have devastating wounds, buried deep within, so they can function day to day. They will need some time to process the information but as you cover them in prayer, the Holy Spirit, not you, will be the one to bring them to a place of forgiveness and healing.

Main Focus

When we are able to realize the allencompassing debt we have been forgiven by God, it will be much easier to forgive others. We did not have to earn forgiveness; forgiveness was given to us.

The enemy uses offense to lure us into bondage. He knows what pushes our buttons so we need to be aware of these areas, too! We can choose to let a person off the hook— not because they deserve it, but because we want to stay free. Being quick to let an offense go and believing the best of others keeps our hearts pure. Pure hearts stay in the Tree of Life. When it comes to our past, God chooses to not remember. It's Scripture so we need to embrace it as truth. Choosing to remember your past sins no more is renewing your mind to God's standard.

 Taking the Lead Tell your group about a personal experience with unforgiveness/	 Discussion Points Did the Holy Spirit reveal anyone they need to forgive? If this is difficult for them, let them ask themselves why. Have they had the wrong idea of forgiveness? Explore the question, "How would your life change if you chose to believe the best of everyone?"
 forgiveness.	 Have you forgiven yourself of past sins? What is holding you back?
 they have held in un themselves comple Lord will answer the	Its to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to them any person inforgiveness. Also, they should ask if they have forgiven itely. It is a dangerous and yet wonderful prayer because the im! Encourage them so they may receive answers over time. It is also their prayer with its answers.
	ial for one week. Continue to reference forgiveness aining weeks and allow participants to share what the Holy them.
	tion, Let Freedom Ring, on page 77. Read it aloud in your ower of the Scriptures minister to your participants.
 Ask the Holy SpirAsk the Holy Spir	eceive the Lord's forgiveness for themselves. It to gently reveal people they need to forgive. It to help them to forgive those who have offended them. It help them to forgive those who have offended them. It has been hise.

Participants Section

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool if you will obey me." (Isaiah 1:18, NLT).

We live in a fallen world, and because of it, we face the realities of hurt and offense. The words and deeds of others can wound us to the core in indescribable ways. Things like neglect, abuse, violence, betrayal, and cruel remarks can cause bitterness and resentment to infiltrate our hearts, and although it may not be our intention, unforgiveness is a result.

An offense laced with unforgiveness is like an arrow tipped in poison. The offense slashes through our defenses and hurts us in the moment, but the aftermath of unforgiveness remains long after the event takes place.

Its bitter poison seeps into our veins, tainting our thoughts and clouding our vision. If left unchecked, it will eventually penetrate our hearts and paralyze our ability to live, to love, and to be loved. When someone does wrong to us, unforgiveness feels like the right response—after all, shouldn't they have to pay for the offense? But harboring unforgiveness is actually like drinking poison and expecting another person to die; it just doesn't work.

,

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section			
	Ask Yourself:	Am I harborin	ng unforgiveness?
		in the Tree of Life. S	s us in bondage and keeps us from living to why is it so hard to forgive others? reasons we have a hard time extending ole in our lives.
	1. We have a wroforgiveness. We don't offer forgiveness because we definition of what foe we have not define properly. To truly under means to forgive sor learn what forgiveness who has wronged your "It's no big deal" or hurt." It is a big deal pain. What was donnot right, and harm the Father's heart for perfect will is to proyou. Rather, when you choose to the offense become	veness easily to have an incorrect rgiveness means. d forgiveness derstand what it meone, we need to ess is not. Inimizing the offense. to someone you is not saying, "It didn't really all and it did cause ne or said was never reflects or you. God's offect and nurture you choose to enot to hang on	Forgiveness is not reconciliation. Letting go of offense does not mean you must reconcile with the person. Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." God understands there are times when reconciliation may not be the best choice. If the offender is not ready to reconcile, it will only cause further pain and disappointment when you are exposed to the same circumstances. In such situations, rely on the Holy Spirit to lead you. Begin by allowing the miracle of forgiveness to happen in you.

Note Taking Section In order for a relationship to be restored, these things must happen in the offender: Repentance: turning away from wrong actions and going in the opposite direction Restitution: making things right if possible Rebuilding of Trust: proving themselves consistent in words and actions We tell ourselves, "When they apologize, then I will forgive them." By choosing this path, we actually become a hostage to the very one who has wronged us because it leaves our freedom up to another person. Reconciliation takes two, but forgiveness is a one-player game. Forgiveness is not forgetting what happened. Sometimes we think in order to forgive someone, we must forget what happened. "Forgive and forget" is a cliché without truth. The reality is we may never forget what has happened to us. But God wants to do something extraordinary in our lives. He wants to bring healing to our hearts so we can remember these past experiences without reliving the pain associated with them. God wants to show you how He can make all things new. 2. We don't think it's fair. We don't offer forgiveness to those who of us deserves forgiveness. Jesus uses the following parable to explain the have hurt us because it is not fair to let profound and undeserved forgiveness them off the hook. We reason in our extended to us as believers. minds - they don't deserve forgiveness. Thankfully, God isn't fair because none Read Matthew 18:21-35. What are the Kingdom

THINK ABOUT IT

others so we can

Principles Jesus is trying to convey?

forgiveness to

We offer

be free.

WEEK Forgiveness

Note Taking Section			
	Jesus told Peter he would need to forgive his brother 490 times a day, or once every three minutes. At the rate our thoughts sometimes race, the number doesn't seem too farfetched, does it? In the parable you just read, the first man owed a debt of 10,000 talents, which is equal to about \$5 billion in today's currency. The master cancelled this debt. Like this man, we, as sinners, owed a great debt we could not pay, but God loves us anyway. Through the cross, Jesus paid our debt in full. We are forgiven much.		The second man owed a debt of 100 Denarii, equal to about \$10 thousand in today's economy. Is this an insignificant amount of money? No, it is quite a lot. In the same way, when someone hurts or offends us, it is significant. But because we have beer forgiven much, we can extend what we have received to others. None of us deserve the forgiveness God has given to us. We should rejoice in the fact that God isn't fair. If He were fair, we would have to pay for our own sins. Thankfully, we don't get what we deserve; instead we have abundant life now and eternal life to come.
	Ask Yourself	have wronged me	been forgiven, can I release those who ? Would I trade my forgiveness from Goo someone accountable for their offense
	3. We don't thin	k we can do it.	
	The third reason we don't think we hav the strength to do it of the enemy. He is of Lies (John 8:44).	e don't forgive is we e the power and it. This is the voice	If we measure our circumstances by our own abilities it will always seem like it can never happen. But we don't measure circumstances by our own strength, but by the power and strength of the Lord.

Write out Phili	onians 4:12 Commit this verse to mome	Note Taking Section
wille out Philip	opians 4:13. Commit this verse to memo	ıy.
Write out 2 Co	orinthians 12:9.	
of his struggles—the	ve, Paul is saying something incredible happens in the me power of Christ is at work! Forgiveness does not turn us in the opposite occurs; we become victorious.	
THINK ABOUT IT When we forgive an offense, we set a prisoner free, only to discover that we were that	God is inviting you into a new reality. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling, and it will be a daily choice. We would like to wait until we feel like forgiving and then le our choices follow. But if we do it this way, we will alway live according to the reality of this world	
prisoner.	However, if we will dare to believe God, and choose first, feelings will follow our decision. We will then shift from me "responding" to what happens to us to choosing to live i the Tree of Life. Remember: Choices lead, feelings follow	erely n
The Forgiven Why is it so vital tha Because the forgive 1:18 says your sins w Jesus has made the	scripture, "if you obey me." Forgive is not a suggestion, but a requirem	eness

they were crimson, and He has made

WEEK Forgiveness

Note Taking Section	"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:31-32).		
	The first step God takes in our relationship with Him is He forgives us. Romans 5:8 says while we were still sinners, God sent Jesus to die for us. He made the first move by choosing to forgive us before we asked. We must make the same decision—in every relationship. This is critical: It is impossible to forgive others of their offenses until we receive forgiveness for ourselves. If we struggle with	forgiveness, chances are we have not fully grasped what has been done for us. We have received total forgiveness for past, present, and future sin. It is not that God forgets our sins, but rather He chooses to remember our sin no more. He chooses to never bring up our sin again—ever. Why? God desperately wants to be in relationship with you.	
	IIIIIII ADOUL II	ficulty forgiving others, we have not fully arge a debt God has forgiven us.	
	Write out Isaiah 43:25.		
	Write out Hebrews 8:12.		

Note Taking Section Offense to trap an animal. A pit would be An offense is a violation of what we consider to be right and natural. Jesus covered with branches and a piece of flesh (scandelon) would be placed on said a sign of the last days would be that many would be offended, betray, the pit to lure the animal into the trap. Offense lures us into a trap of and hate one another (Matthew 24:10, unforgiveness and bondage. We think KJV). The word offense comes from we are trapping the person who hurt the Greek word scandelon, which us; when, in reality, we are the ones means "the bait." It was used in Old who are ensnared. Testament times when people wanted Look at Proverbs 18:19 and notice the progression of offense.

Offense is the bait the enemy uses to lure us into bondage. When we become offended, we become unyielding. Think about a city surrounded by gates; the gates' purpose is to protect the city. We use this same thinking to protect ourselves, and place walls around our hearts. People may have hurt us once, but we will not allow them to do it again. What works for a city of stone does not necessarily work in the same way for flesh and blood. The problem is walls may keep out the bad, but they will

also keep out the good. With walls, we not only protect ourselves from pain and rejection, but from experiencing love and lifegiving relationships. We think it is up to us to protect our hearts, but the truth is God never meant for this to be our responsibility; it is His.

How and why we become offended may vary, but one thing will not change. We will all face offense in this world. When offense comes, we must decide if we will take "the bait" from our adversary.

Taking Section	The Unforgiveness Trap Below is a chart of five common snares the unforgiveness. For each of the wrongdoin offense. Jesus was fully God and fully made every way we are today because He way you face, He has been there—and overcommon of the Unforgiveness.	ngs, Jesus also suffered the same n. He allowed Himself to be tempted in anted you to know that no matter what
	When we are Betrayed a best friend who lied, a spouse who didn't stay forever, a sibling who chose a different path	Remember Jesus was Betrayed by Judas, a trusted friend and one of His disciples
	Falsely Accused - misunderstood, the subject of gossip and slander	Falsely Accused in several courts
	Rejected by a spouse, friend, trusted authority, or even the church	Rejected by Peter, one of His apostles and closest companions.
	Abused emotional, physical, verbal, and sexual	Abused beaten, cursed, and crucified on a cross, an instrument of torture
	Humiliated an embarrassing moment that just won't go away; shame, disgrace	Humiliated was crucified and humiliated in a public setting
	To get a better understanding of why Jesus had to suffer the way He did, read the following passage:	It was important for Jesus to experience all of these offenses in a human body so He could understand every struggle we would encounter. Now when we
	"That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get	come to Him with our hurts, He can honestly reply, "I understand. I went through it, too." Jesus did this for us.

rid of the people's sins, he would have

already experienced it all himself—all

(Hebrews 2:17-18, The Message).

the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed."

Now He wants to share a secret only

He is qualified to teach.

		Note Taking Section
Write out 1 Peter 4:1.		
THINK ABOUT IT Godly responses to	offense will keep our hearts pure.	
The secret is not that Jesus was	Our primary prayer for people should	
offended, it is how he responded to	be the Lord would allow us to see them	
offense. At His death, Jesus asked the Father to forgive the very ones who	through the eyes of Jesus. If we will change our viewpoint from the reality	
cursed Him, who nailed His hands and feet to the cross for "they do not	of this world to the reality of God, we will find ourselves loving people the	
know what they are doing." (Luke	way Jesus did, regardless of what they	
23:34). In reality, they knew exactly what they were doing, killing a man	do or don't do to us.	
who they hated and making sure He felt every ounce of their malice. Jesus	How do we keep our hearts pure and unoffended? Consider these three	
knew they were blinded by hate,	simple statements:	
but He chose to see things differently and we can, too. Offenses will come,	1. We need forgiveness, too. We will	
so we must arm ourselves with the same thinking of Jesus.	never have to forgive others more than	
same minking of Jesus.	what God has forgiven us.	
Write out Romans 3:23.		
Write out Matthew 10:8.		

Note Taking Section		
	 2. Focus on the real enemy. People are not our ene a choice to see the people with the hammer and not that hurting people hurt people, then the guilty have goal should be to love people and hate the devil. 	ails as victims, too. If it is true
	Write out 1 Peter 5:8.	
	-	
	 Receive the love of God. It will give you the cape you continually struggle to love people, it may be be received the love of God. 	,
	Write out 1 John 4:10.	
	-	
	- -	
	_	
	Forgiveness in Action The Bible's steps for walking out forgiveness are countercultural (the opposite of mainstream society) and counterintuitive (not normally	THINK ABOUT IT Receiving the
	expected). But, if you will follow them, they will change your life. Our way of thinking and God's way of thinking are not the same. Read 1	love of God first is the only way to

Corinthians 1:25-28 to gain the proper perspective

of obedience to God's way of doing things.

give it to others.

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." (I Corinthians 1:25-29).			Note Taking Section
Pray for people who have offended you. Society tells us to return evil for evil, or at the very least, isolate the people who hurt us so they cannot do so again. But Jesus said in order to have different results, we have to respond differently. Bless people who have offended you.			
Write out Matt	thew 5:43-44.		
THINK ABOUT IT How would your life change if you chose to believe the best of everyone?	about the people asking us to go a them. The word "b	s all we can do to not talk negatively who have wronged us. But Jesus is step further; He is asking us to bless pless" means to "speak well of." Again, ated by today's culture. Listen to what	

Note Taking Section		
	"But to you who are layour enemies, do god you, bless those who those who mistreat yo	od to those who hate curse you, pray for
	Write out Romans 12:14.	
	Do good to people who have offended	you.
	Doing so requires a change in our way of thinking. It is not that we are repaying good for evil; it is that we have made the decision to do only good to others. So whether someone is	serving or attacking us, our response should be to do what the Word says. God sees every detail of your life and will take care of every detail you trust Him to handle.
	Forgiving Ourselves Getting past your past may be the biggest obstacle you face. Every time you seem to be making progress, the old movie reel of the sinful things you have done begins to play in your mind. Peace and freedom slip quietly	away as your past rises up to become your reality. You think forgiveness is for others and not for you because you have done too many horrible things, and it's just too late.

Let Freedom Ring

Below is a declaration from Romans 12:17-21. Read it aloud.

I do not repay evil for evil. I am careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on me, I will live at peace with everyone. I will not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: If my enemy is hungry, I will feed him; if he is thirsty, I will give him something to drink. I will not be overcome by evil, but I overcome evil with good.

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	
	A Prayer of
	Forgiveness
	This is a simple prayer of forgiveness you can use to release anyone who has offended you. Insert the name or names of those you feel you need to forgive, and say the words aloud.
	"Lord, I have not loved, but have resented certain people and I have unforgiveness in
	my heart. Forgive me for my sin of offense.
	I ask you Lord, to give me the power to release and forgive those who have hurt
	me. I do now forgive them and ask You to forgive me also. Give me the strength
	to pray for them, bless them, and want
	the best for them. Thank you for breaking these chains off my life. In the name of
	Jesus I pray, Amen.

You may be surprised to know these feelings are actually common to many believers. It feels godly to pay for our past, over and over again. The enemy is quick to remind us of painful memories we are powerless

to change. Why does he do this?
Because it keeps us stuck in the past, unable to move forward in the future the Lord has planned. These thoughts come solely from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Note Taking Section

Ask Yourself:

Am I constantly reminding myself of past failures? Does the sin of my past continue to bother me even though I have asked God to forgive me?

Tho	Pact	and	the	Presen
HIE	L M21	unu	IIIE	rieseii

1 We try to bury it.

Have you heard the phrase, "You've got to bury the past?" Well, the fact is you can't. It will find its way to the surface at some point. We hear time heals all wounds, but time cannot - only the Holy Spirit can heal. Concealing the past never works. Proverbs 28:13 (NIV) says, "Whoever conceals his sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." According to James 5, confessing our sins and praying for one another actually helps to bring healing and wholeness.

2 We beat ourselves up.

Some of us live in the land of rearet. We dwell on the "if only" scenarios from our past. But "if only" is a trap. We cannot change the past and the enemy uses it to torment us. King David knew this type of grief. He committed adultery with his own soldier's wife, and then had him killed when she became preanant with his child. When Nathan confronted David, he repented and cried out to God. Psalm 38:4-8 says, "My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. I am feeble and utterly crushed. I groan in anguish of heart." We see unforgiveness can cause physical as well as emotional pain.

Note Taking Section	
	3 We blame others. The tactic has been used since the times of Adam and Eve. When God asked Adam why he disobeyed, Adam blamed Eve. Eve's response was to blame the serpent (Genesis 3:12-13). We must take responsibility for our actions, repent, and move forward. Since these are incorrect responses to dealing with our past, how are we supposed to face it? We look to the Word of God. He has the right view about our past, and we must believe it. God says when we ask Jesus into our hearts, our old life vanishes and we become a new person. You may know this in your head, but is it your reality?
	"For if a man belongs to Christ, he is a new
	person. The old life is gone. New life has begun."
	(2 Corinthians 5:17).
	Even though the apostle Paul had a past of persecuting and killing Christians, he understood this truth and it reshaped his thinking.
	"Even though I was once a blasphemer and
	a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown
	mercy because I acted in ignorance and
	unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out
	on me abundantly, along with the faith and love
	that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy
	saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ
	Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of
	whom I am the worst." (1 Timothy 1:13-15).

Getting Past the Past

To let our past die, we must change our way of thinking. The old way of thinking doesn't line up to God's Word, so it doesn't produce life. We can adjust our way of thinking by studying what God says is true.

Stop trying to earn forgiveness. Most people don't understand the gospel. They think if they can be good more days than they are bad, they get to go

to heaven. It's not true. The price has been paid. Forgiveness is received, not earned. If we think we have to earn forgiveness from God, we will make others earn forgiveness from us. Well-meaning friends may say you need "to just forgive yourself" and "give yourself a break." We cannot forgive ourselves. Forgiveness is not ours to give; it is God's to give. Here is the gospel:

Note Taking Section

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Receive God's forgiveness by faith. It will free your heart and allow you to forgive others.

Defeat every lie with the truth. It would be great if once we had received forgiveness, we never thought about our past again. The truth is the enemy will continue to bring up your past every day. He will wait for weak moments in your life and whisper your failures to you. We have to resist him every day. The devil is the "father of lies." It is his job description. (John 8:44) When he lies, he speaks his native language. He is the accuser of the brethren. (Revelation 12:10) We defeat him by knowing and speaking the truth.

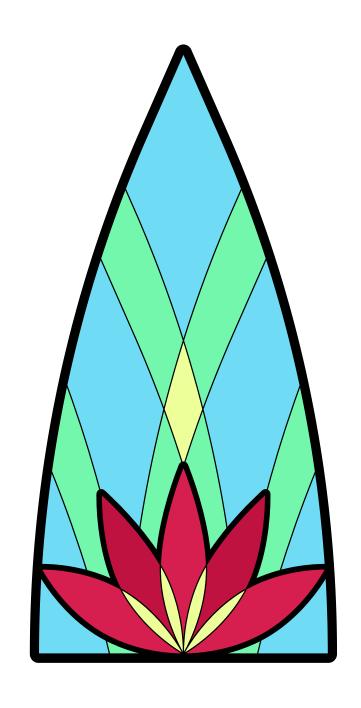
Be Free: Living In Freedom Everyday 105

Note Taking Section		
	- Write out 1 Corinthians 1:30.	
	-	
	 Allow God to turn it around for good. We or we can focus on the future. Whateve can turn it around for good. 	•
	Write out Romans 8:28.	
	-	
	_	
	You can use your past to minister hope to from God and comfort others. Consider the falsely accused, rejected, and abused. Enable him to save his family and the nation of Enable to the falsely accused.	the story of Joseph. He was betrayed, But God made him prosper and used
	"You intended to harm me, good. He brought me to this the lives of many people." (position so I could save
	 God never said forgiveness would be easy. In fact, following the instructions in His Word takes courage and strength. But His instructions work. They will lead us into pathways of righteousness where we can live again, free from the ghosts of our past. No more guilt, no more hiding, no more shame. Free. 	Believe you have been made new and clean and He can and will make you whole again. But be warned: Life as you know it will never be the same. As you begin to see yourself the way God sees you, you will begin to see others differently. You'll find yourself with open hands, releasing offenses, and receiving life abundant. You will

It takes faith to believe these words are true, but if you do, they will change your life. Trust that God's Word is true.

be living in the Tree of Life.

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK8 THE POWER OF WORDS

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

From a wise mind comes wise speech; the words of the wise are persuasive. Kind words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body. (Proverbs 16:23-24).

Overview

This week you will introduce a topic that may divide the room—the power of words. Some participants will accept this teaching easily while others will need more convincing. However, when they understand the truth, it will drastically change their lives. Some people did not grow up in a home where words of life were spoken. Therefore, it feels unnatural and senseless to speak words which do not appear to be true.

In Genesis, God spoke to an atmosphere that was without form and void. In response to His words, a paradise was formed. We, as children of this same God, have been given the same authority.

Encourage them to speak Words of Life over themselves even though it may feel awkward. Teach them our feelings are from our soul and can be wrong. Remind them to find out what the Word of God says about their circumstances and speak those words. Quickly, they will realize the power their words contain.

Main Focus

Living in the Tree of Life and speaking words of life are synonymous. In order to stay in this tree, your words will have to line up with the Word of God. Proverbs 18:21 says life and death are in the power of the tongue. Every time we speak, we advance the Kingdom of God (Life) or the camp of the enemy (death). Our words need to be in agreement with what the Bible says about our situation. Because the Word contains power to fulfill itself, speaking the Word of God releases power in our lives.

Any words of death spoken over us are robbed of power when we refuse to agree with them. Decide in advance not to cross certain lines with your tongue. For example: I will not use profanity, I will not intentionally wound another with my words, I will not speak vile things. Then, you can manage your decision daily. In a heated moment, managing a decision is much easier than trying to decide where to draw the line. With our words and responses, we invite or quench the presence of God. To tame the tongue we guard our heart, gauge our tongue, and garnish our speech.

WEEK S The Power of Words

Ask participants if they have had experiences with words of death. Use the Scriptures appendix to show them how to break off of those words.	 Discuss words of death used in our everyday language like "you should be ashamed." Ask participants to share words like these they've spoken or had spoken over them. Discuss the principle of "agreeing" words of death are robbed of power when we refuse to agree, and words of life gain hold in our lives when we choose to agree with them.
become religious ac something we "must and remain steadfa volunteer to come to (using scripture) and to testify the words of adjustment for us as	principles to help us live in freedom that they don't simply ctivities. Speaking words of life shouldn't be viewed as t" do, but a gift we've been given to keep our spirits strong st in our lives. To illustrate the power of words, ask for a to the front of the room. Aloud, pray a blessing over them at then ask them how it made them feel. They will be able contain power! Getting control of our words is a huge it is for most people. For some, it may help to journal their ney might enlist an accountability partner to hold them words they speak.
 It is time to be radicathe bathroom, the control on YouVer	outs "LIFE Declarations" and "Who I am in Christ" in their book al! Suggest the idea of putting scriptures on their mirror in dashboard of their car, and on the front of their refrigerator. sion, Dwell, or Hallow is a great way to learn the Scriptures as o an "all in" approach.
their words. Lord their tongues. • Break off negative to show them are negative words of their words.	of your participants will have a revelation of the power of all, let them realize life and death are in the power of a words that have been spoken over them. Ask the Lord eas of their life in which they have agreed with these and set them free. desire to be a vessel of honor in the Kingdom.

Participants Section

			Note Taking Section
Death and lif (Proverbs 18:	_	wer of the tongue.	
The words we spect gauge, showing he soul we have surred from the have allowed be renewed by the conversation can't what we have lear	ow much of our endered to God. d our minds to e Word, our	hand, we are hesitant to release our old habits and beliefs, our words will betray us and reveal our true spiritual condition. If our souls are not in submission to God and if we haven't surrendered everything to Him, our tongues will be the first to sell us out.	
Write out Luk	e 6:45.		
Ask Yourself:		t-to-day conversation say about my Do my words reflect God who lives	

WEEK S The Power of Words

Note Taking Section	Read the verses below. What did Jesus sour hearts and our words?	say about the relationship between
	"Whatever is in your heart d good person produces goo and an evil person produce heart." (Matthew 12:34-35).	d words from a good heart,
	Write out Matthew 12:36–37.	
	 Through these passages, Jesus community the cares and treasures of the world will judgment on us. A life surrendered to Go produce speech full of grace, mercy, lo 	lead to fruitless talk which will bring od and filled with the Holy Spirit will
	"By faith we understand tha	t the entire universe was
	formed at God's command	
	not come from anything the	nt can be seen."
	- (Hebrews 11:13)	
	With words, God spoke the entire universe into being. With words, He communicates to us. The Bible, with its thousands of words, is His way to reveal Himself to us. It is even better—Jesus is actually the living, breathing, Word of God (John 1:1). Words and language	literally life to us. Because God created man in His image, we have the ability to speak words of life or words of death. Since Jesus is our example in everything, and we are to follow in His steps, let's look at a few verses that demonstrate the power of His words.

were His idea, and His words are

Note Taking Section In the following verses, underline what happened when Jesus spoke. Matthew 8:8 - Then the officer said, Matthew 8:32 - "All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd from where you are, and my servant will be healed!" plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. John 11:43-44 (ESV)- When he had Matthew 8:26 – And Jesus answered, "Why are you afraid? You have so little said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The faith!" Then He stood up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly man who had died came out." there was a great calm. THINK ABOUT IT The spoken Word of God can bring healing, peace, Your words have deliverance, and life! Every time we open our mouths to the power to talk, we either advance the kingdom of life or we advance change your the kingdom of death. environment. Write out Proverbs 18:4.

Isaiah 14 recounts the fall of Satan.
Verses 12 through 14 say, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning... For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will be like the Most High.'" (NKJV) Through the power of Satan's spoken words of rebellion, the kingdom

Write out Proverbs 18:7.

of darkness was established. He actually spoke the first words of rebellion in his heart. Satan and his demons continue to speak words of rebellion into our minds. If we aren't enlightened to the truth, we will be his advocate in hurting others and even ourselves with the words we speak.

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WEEK The Power of Words

king Section	When we were saved, we weren't taken directly to heaven because we are Jesus' body — His hands, feet, heart, and mouth — designed to reach the lost and make a difference in this world. Jesus understood very well the pressures we would be under. God knew we would not be able to survive the pressures and temptations of the world, and He knew we would be completely powerless without help. Ironically, Jesus actually told His disciples it would be to their advantage if He left and went back to heaven (John 16:7). Why? Because of God's incredible plan to leave us	the Holy Spirit, who would live inside us and help us to do the impossible—represent Jesus to the world. You see, Jesus, although fully God, was fully human—He could be in only one place at a time while He walked on earth in a human body. We can be filled with the Holy Spirit and have Him as our personal guide through life no matter where we are on the earth. Jesus said, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears." (John 16:13, NASB). In other words, God will disclose to us, by the Spirit, all the guidance we need, including what to say.
	Ask Yourself: Am I intentional in a of God? To minister	using my words to promote the Kingdom to others?
	Control Issues When our soul is surrendered to God, even the Garden of Eden, Satan spoke to Eve to entice her. Eve didn't know it, but when she and Adam had a conversation about Satan's idea, she advanced the kingdom of death through her spoken words. God said "Because you have listened."	en our words produce life. 3:17, NASB). Satan didn't bring death to Eve by biting her and releasing poisonous venom or by wrapping his coils around her and squeezing the life out of her; no, he talked her to death. Then, she proceeded to talk Adam to death. Can you see

to the voice of your wife, and have

not eat from it'; cursed is the ground

because of you; in toil you will eat of

it all the days of your life." (Genesis

eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall

the importance of controlling our words? Controlling what we say will

containing the power of life and

death: our tongues.

require us to tame a part of ourselves

"We all make many mistakes, but those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way." (James 3:2).

We average about 30 conversations a day, so what do all those words we use to communicate say about us? James makes the argument if you say you are a Christian and you love God, but your attitude and actions reflect something different, you may fall into the category of the deceived. In James 3:2, we are told we can control ourselves in every way if we can control our tongues.

Sometimes the greatest hurts and heartaches come from what people have said to us. Conversely, some of our greatest memories center on positive things people have said to us, like the phrase "I love you." Those are wonderful words to hear, but for some of us, they are hard to say, even to those we love. Our words can either tear others down or build them up with encouragement.

Note Taking Section

Here are some common statements people make. As you read them, imagine the effect the words might have.

Words of life

Hove you.

We're having a baby!

You look great.

You're hired.

You're my best friend. I'm giving you a

raise.

I see potential in you.

You're so smart.

You make me happy.

You'll do great.

You did your best.

I forgive you.

I do!

Words of death

I hate you.

I wish you had never been born.

You've gained weight.

You're fired.

You were a mistake.

You'll never amount to anything.

You're so lazy.

You're stupid.

You're selfish.

You're a waste.

It's all your fault.

I never should have married you.

I want a divorce.

WEEK 8 The Power of Words

Note Taking Section	chapter three, the		ower of the tongue, our spoken words. In ague can defile the whole body, and he is point.
	THINK ABOUT IT Words of life are like salt, bringing out good flavor in conversations and situations.	ounces, but it is pordeath. Like the smooth the tongue can continue the tongue of metal. Too forget one little issurdirection of our liver use it to control o	e is petite, weighing only about two werful, containing the power of life or all piece of metal used to steer horses, ontrol the direction of our lives ugh ships are traditionally large and ands, they are steered by this very small to often we focus on the big things and are of the tongue could determine the est. The tongue can control us, or we can are destiny (James 3:4). It is a small, quick strike, and it can set the same way, what we say can be curt, are of the most hurtful things we have said to us are sharp one-liners or even an be abrupt, rude statements, likely by the one who said them, but the impaction.
	Thousands of acres be destroyed by a firefighters cannot per the tongue can device destruction by you have been on of these kinds of wo news. You don't just cope; you can be the	fire hundreds of out out. Similarly, vour a life and beyond belief. If the receiving end ords, there is good	make an unintentional turn. Although the one who said them often forgets these dialogues, the person on the receiving end remembers them for long periods of time. The truth is careless words can be harmful. Imagine a child struggling to read and a frustrated and worried parent listening to the child twist the words

free from the effects of those words.

Words can be petty and seemingly

can be poisonous. And sometimes

conversation and arguments can

insignificant, yet at the same time they

day after day. Finally, after losing all

wrong with you? You can't read!"

Those words have the potential to

patience, the parent screams, "What's

make the child feel stupid and give up

even trying. The parent may feel terrible about saying it, but then go to bed and completely forget about the statement. These kinds of words Write out James 3:7–8.	can have a lasting effect which could change the course of a person's life and cause widespread destruction.	Note Taking Section
Does a spring of water bub and bitter water? Does a fig	to curses against those he image of God. And so e pouring out of the same and sisters, this is not right! oble out with both fresh water g tree produce olives, or a lo, and you can't draw fresh	
Ask Yourself: Do I say things at	oout myself, or others, that I quickly regret?	
	vay we speak, but know this - change is God's image, we were meant to speak ng, and offer encouragement.	

WEEK S The Power of Words

Note Taking Section		
	How to Tame the Tongue	
	1. Guard your heart. Jesus says in Matthew 12:34, "Whatever is in your heart determines what you say." The mouth is automatically going to say what is inside of us. If we desire to control our tongue, we need to control the junk bombarding our ears and saturating our souls continually.	We can then become a person who speaks differently. According to God's Word, "A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart". (Matthew 12:35). It's the old "garbage in, garbage out" principle.
	Write out Psalm 51:10.	
	Some of us grew up in homes where everyone was critical, where belittling remarks were part of the daily routine and yelling was the main form of communication. If you were raised in this kind of environment, you may have already made a decision to do life differently. Maybe you still experience great discouragement when you lash out at someone, wishing you had not reacted that way.	Because you saw those verbal attacks modeled, your reactions imitate what you saw; it is a vicious cycle which may lead to generational sin. Generational sin can be passed down from person to person until it is recognized and broken. To break the cycle, we need to put a filter on our minds and protect ourselves from the venomous effects of careless and evil speech.

		Note Taking Section
 Gauge your tongue. A gauge is an indicator of how far 	of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language	
you've gone or where the limits are. If we had a gauge on our tongues, there	from your lips" (NIV). Decide you aren't going to say the things you used to	
would be a certain place where we would simply stop. Colossians 3:8 says,	say. Make the decision today, and then manage your decision daily.	
"But now you must also rid yourselves		
Write out Psalm 141:3.		
We may need to devise a system or a plan to get ourselves under	in a way you don't want your children to imitate, decide not to confront the	
control when we face pressures. For example, you might need a policy to	child in the heat of the moment when anger or frustration is fresh. Decide in	
calm yourself down when you face a discipline situation with a child. To avoid saying careless or harmful words	advance not to cross certain lines with your tongue. This is intentional Tree of Life livina!	
Read Proverbs 10:19. What h	Č	
many? Who is considered w	• •	

WEEK Some The Power of Words

Note Taking Section		
	 3. Garnish your speech. A garnish is something you put on a plansaid 97 percent of the enjoyment of foo would it be like if we decide before we going to garnish it to make it sound pleasant. 	od is how it looks to the eye. What let anything out of our mouths, we are
	Write out Ephesians 4:29.	
	At times, we need to say difficult or even negative words, but even so, we can speak in a way to bless and encourage the other person. Bad news can even be delivered in a positive way. Discipline can be done in a way to truly benefit the one being corrected.	The Bible says our speech can literally cause the Holy Spirit to grieve. Ephesians 4:30 says, "And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption."
	Write out Ephesians 4:31.	
	Sometimes the best thing to say is nothing at all. There are plenty of times Jesus held His tongue, even when He endured absolute brutality. In fact, although He never committed a sin, the Bible says He learned	He did not revile or offer insult in return." (1 Peter 2:23, AMP). Sometimes, the lifegiving and life preserving response to others is simply to keep quiet. Our soul will certainly protest, often vehemently, but our spirit will gain strength as we

obedience by the things He suffered.

"When He was reviled and insulted,

take another step toward living in

spiritual order.

		s it a good idea to just say nothing?	Note Taking Section
we say. Instead, speak g	good words, build	s, but we resist Him by some of the things up others and yourself, and in return, our life and encounter Him in new ways.	
Proverbs 11:13			
Proverbs 13:3			
Proverbs 17:1			
Proverbs 17:9			
Proverbs 17:14			
Proverbs 17:27-28			
Philippians 2:14–15			
1 Peter 3:1–2			
Read the following So		vrite the instruction given.	
Proverbs 4:20—22			
Proverbs 4:24			
Proverbs 15:1			
Proverbs 16:13			
Proverbs 16:24			
Proverbs 16:28			
Proverbs 18:8			
Often whole families are by certain words. "They' of losers. None of them e school." "They've alway way—they say even her	re just a bunch even finished rs been that	the flow of God's loving kindness and blessing to a thousand generations after you (Exodus 20:6). Ask God to shine the light on words in your life you should never have spoken. Destructive	
had a bad temper." Sin down from generation t	can be passed o generation	words are words spoken in agreement with Satan, the accuser. Did you know	
and so can the consequence 20:5). If your family has g	•	he accuses Christians before God day and night (Revelation 12:10)? He is a	
in any form, the good no be freed from it! You ca	ews is you can	liar and the father of lies (John 8:44), and we must choose to not agree with	

his lies.

generation of the righteous and begin

WEEK S The Power of Words

Note Taking Section	Write any words of death and cursing spoken to you by others.
	Write any words of death and cursing you have spoken to yourself.

Write any words of death an to others.	d cursing you have spoken	Note Taking Section
The Voice of Freedom Following are steps you can take for the spoken by you or against you. Pray throudown. (The specific examples are a pray harmful words.)	ugh these steps for the issues you wrote	
1. Repent: What has been said and believed doesn't line up with the Word of God and I must turn away from those words and that belief. Father, I confess I have chosen to believe that I am worthless. I repent, Father, and turn away from that belief."	and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I break the curse of unworthiness and all its effects on my life, and I declare the spirit of unworthiness has no right or place in my life. 3.Bless: I bless the situation by speaking specific verses truth or promises	
2. Cast Off: I must refuse to recognize or follow the curse spoken - and demonic spirits behind it. In the name of Jesus break or bind the power, schemes, and attack of the enemy in this situation. I cast off the lie that I am worthless and renounce the spirit of unworthiness. In the name of Jesus	specific verses, truth, or promises found in Scripture. I also speak life by declaring a personal blessing over the situation. I declare and believe what the Word of God says in Zechariah 2:8, that "I am the apple of God's eye." I loose the blessing of significance and value in my life, and I declare that I am of great worth to God."	

WEEK The Power of Words

Note Taking Section	The Dream Killer Billy Hornsby
	As a boy, I had many dreams. I was Elvis, Rocky Marciano; I was rich and famous, a great football player. Like many of the kids I grew up with, I had aspirations for greatness. I didn't have a clue what it all meant, what it would cost me, or what the interpretation would be, but I dreamed and dreamed. From Superman capes to slicked-back, greasy hair and guitars there wasn't anything I didn't dream of becoming. Then came the dream killer.
	In my school days of the late '50s and early '60s, we had elementary school from first to sixth grade. After that came junior high. Wow, junior high, where you no longer had just one teacher, but changed rooms every hour to a new subject and teacher. You left on a bus early in the morning went across town and didn't come back till the end of the day. This is where it all started to count. It was a bit scary, but it was reality. I was going to junior high.
	My grades were decent in elementar school. I was in advanced math class and on occasion nearly made "straight A's." Notice I said "nearly." School was not my thing. Homework was out of the question, and with six rambunctious kids, Mama couldn't keep up with all of us. So, I just got

start trying once I got to Westdale Junior High. In the meantime, girls and football seemed to be enough to keep me busy.

It was the end of sixth grade and my teacher/coach was handing out report cards. It was my turn to get my final report card, get my final word of encouragement from my teacher, Coach Milligan, and wait for the summer to end so I could begin a new stage in my life. I approached the teacher's desk, he looked at me with a stern face and said these unfortunate words, "Hornsby, you will never make it!" I thought, "What did he mean by that?" It was like someone had tried to punch me in the nose, and I was trying to dodge the blow. "Never make it?" Oh well.

I went home, gave the report card to Mama and told her. "You know what Mr. Milligan said when he gave me my report card? He said, 'Hornsby, you will never make it.'" Mama just brushed it off. "Really? Oh, Billy, just forget it," she said. And that was it. Just forget it. The problem was, I never forgot it. When I finally got to seventh grade and for the next twelve years, I stopped dreaming. With every dream and with every failure came the words, "You will never make it." If I failed a test or missed a pass from the quarterback, I heard those words over and over again. These 99 words would follow me into my marriage, in every job failure, every day, every year. "You will never make it" became a state of being. Subconsciously, it began to dictate my actions and my thoughts. I was on the

by, with little effort. I knew seventh

grade was coming and I would really

road to a dreamless life of failure, to nowhere. But dreams do come true, even with dream killers around.

At age 24 I became a Christian. For the first time, I understood failure did not have to be the foundation on which I built my life. With forgiveness, not only of moral failure, but every other miscue, God was giving me a new start, a chance to overcome my past. It all came to a head at an interview pertaining to a battery of tests I took for my employer at the time. It was a great turn of events.

Manager Trainee was the title of the position I held with a large drug store chain. They had sent trainees from all over the state to take some tests being administered by an industrial psychologist. It was two days of intensive test taking, roundtable negotiations of mock business transactions and tons of personalevaluation-type interviews and questions. When it was all over we took turns going into the room where we got our final "report card." It was my turn. This upbeat man in his early forties looked at me and said, "Mr. Hornsby, you are not going to be with this company very long." I thought, What else is new? "You'll never make it" came back to me. I answered him and said, "That doesn't surprise me, but why do you say that?" His answer changed my life and broke the chains the words of my sixth grade teacher had spoken over me.

For the first time, I understood failure did not have to be the foundation on which I built my life.

He said these words, "I have given this test to thousands of people around the country and you have made the highest score of anyone that I have ever tested. The reason I said you won't last long with this company is that this company does not have enough to offer you." Then he said the words that changed my life for good: "I don't know what you will end up doing, but whatever it is, you will be successful!"

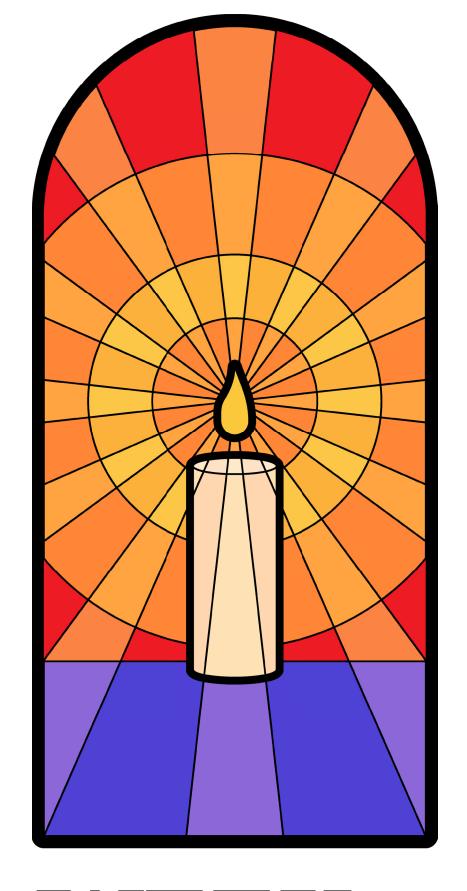
When this psychologist said those words, I knew the origin. It wasn't just him talking, but somehow God was saying to me, "The words of your sixth grade teacher will no longer have an effect on you. From now on, you will not fail, but rather succeed." What an impact this interview had on my life. I remember getting up from the table, and before I left the building, calling my brother Frank. "Frank, I want to tell you what just happened." I relayed the story of the years of being under the power of the negative, dream-killing words of my teacher and then what had just happened in this industrial psychologist's office. "Frank, God has just reversed the curse!"

With that, my whole life changed. I started dreaming again.

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	
	Life
	Declarations
	Read these words aloud, and receive the truth from God's Word.
	 I am blessed with God's supernatural wisdom, and I have clear direction for my life.
	 I am blessed with creativity, with courage, with ability, and with abundance.
	 I am blessed with strong will, self-control, and self-discipline.—I am blessed with a great family, good friends, good health, and with faith, favor, and fulfillment.
	 I am blessed with success, supernatural strength, promotion, and divine protection.
	 I am blessed with an obedient heart and with a positive outlook on life.
	 I declare any curse ever spoken over me, any negative evil word that has ever come against me, is broken right now.
	I am blessed in the city. I am blessed in the country. I am blessed when I go in. I am blessed when I come out.
	• Everything I put my hands to is going to prosper and succeed.
	I am blessed!

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 9 THE LIVING WORD

WEEK The Power of Words

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. (Hebrews 4:12).

Overview

Joshua was the successor of Moses. As a military leader, He had big shoes to fill and a huge assignment. His followers would be expecting to receive a complicated strategy to win the war ahead. God however, told Joshua to stand strong, believe, and obey. The Lord would give Joshua good success.

In our own lives, sometimes we want the Lord to give us a supernatural way to win the battles we face. We want a point-by-point strategic plan. But like Joshua, our answer may be to stay strong, believe God, and be obedient. With our natural minds, this sounds too simple to win the smallest of wars. You should know - trust, patience, and endurance are a powerful spiritual team and all hell cannot overcome them! Learning to speak the word over each circumstance is a discipline. It may start out with great difficulty, but will soon become the only way of life. When we shift our conversation from what the world says to what God says, we line our lives up with ultimate truth and our spirits are strengthened. Psalm

103:20 states the mighty angels of the Lord are waiting for us to speak God's word so they can go to work on our behalf. The Word of God is ammunition for the battle we face.

Main Focus

Our success in life will depend on knowing the Word of God and being able to rightly divide its truths. We must push past the milk stage of depending on others to tell us what the Bible says about our circumstances, and come into the fullness, the meat stage where we know what God says for ourselves. To the extent that we are ignorant of the Word, the enemy will have victory over us.

One of the enemy's tactics is separate, isolate, and devouresponse to trials may be to is ourselves and hide what is how from our peers. The solitude of the perfect environment for to wield his web of lies. Encouparticipants to have someone knows what is happening in the separate of the perfect environment for the perfect environment environment for the perfect environment enviro	r. Our first solate appening creates he enemy urage your e who	and who will commit to pray for them. It is important to draw out deep truths from the Word - rhema knowledge. The Bible says once we have understanding of the Word of God, its truths belong to us and our children forever! We press into the Word for our families and ourselves. It is never "just about us."
Taking the Lead When you speak about rhema knowledge, consider giving them an example from your life where the logos word became the rhema word for you. Personal stories are far more powerful than words on a page.	 to them What a in your learn So Has the logos w 	ohn 1:1-5 and ask them what it means in. The you doing to get more of the Word life? Suggest some practical ways to cripture. The been a time in your life where the yord became rhema for you? The keeping you from taking in the
Bible with them in their cars of discipline. Teach them this true Word), and DISCIPLINE ourselve. Ask them to identify areas in the ground. Then, speak the Word	r backpack oth. If we DE ves to it, it we their lives whe d over this c nips, childre	nere the enemy seems to be gaining area. Speak and pray the Word n, and jobs. Share a time the Lord
of God.	,	ur participant's hearts for the things the Word and for rhema times for

Participants Section

"Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed." (Joshua 1:7-8).

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section		
	and success. He sa and stand against despair. Wouldn't y	fering you a special gift guaranteeing direction, prosperity, ys it will give you the ability to rise above any circumstance any enemy. It will keep you from sin, destruction, and you want this? These guarantees are actually promises, to those who read the Bible and apply its principles to
	Ask Yourself:	Am I regularly consuming the Word of God and letting its truth replace my old way of thinking?
	Write out John	n 1:1-3.
	There is power in the Word of God to change your life.	Jesus was present at the world's beginning, and He is the Word. Jesus and the Word of God are the same, which has profound implications! Jesus was manifested in the flesh as the Word, and we have the same words manifested on its written pages. If Jesus were to show up in the flesh right now where you are sitting, and there was anyone around you who was sick or depressed, you probably wouldn't have any trouble believing Jesus could and would heal them and set them free.
	-	The same power that is in Jesus is in the Word. The Word of God is powerful. We have to receive that truth so the Word can work. The reason we feel the Word has lost its power is we've stopped mixing it with faith. It's not because the Word has changed; it's because we have stopped mixing our faith with the Word. If you want to fall in love with Jesus, find Him in the Word, and make the Word a priority in your

life. If you want more power, consume more of His Word.

Then the Word will come alive.

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Write out Isaiah 55:11.		Note Taking Section		
The Word is literally Spirit and life. If you try to understand the Bible purely with	with the Bible has been less than exciting up to this point—be assured			
your mind, it will be dry and without power. Of course, studying the Word	you are not alone. Like trying to read a novel without the correct prescription			
is good, but when we don't include the Spirit of God, the words we read	glasses, many of us are trying to read the Bible without the one single element which will help us see, the			
appear to be exactly that, just words				
on a page. Perhaps your experience	Spirit of God.			
"But I have a greater wi	tness than John—my			
teachings and my mira				
me these works to acco				
that he sent me. And the Father who sent me				
has testified about me himself. You have never				
heard his voice or seen him face to face, and				
you do not have his me				
because you do not be sent to you. You search				
you think they give you				
Scriptures point to me!"				

Note Taking Section		
	better than anyone the Old Testament. E intellectually knowin and read the Bible to	ve, Jesus was addressing the Pharisees, who knew the Scriptures at the time—they could even recite the first five books of But Jesus pointed out there was more to knowing God than g the Scriptures. If you think you can just wake up every morning o get your thought for the day, you have missed the big picture e alive and bring real change in your life.
	Ask Yourself:	Am I reading the Bible out of duty or out of desire to know God?
	The Word Reve	ealed
	her visit with the an	credible stories of the Bible is the account of young Mary and gel Gabriel. He tells her she is about to become mother to orld. Take a look at the details in Luke 1:26-37.
	THINK ABOUT IT Readjust your beliefs, views, and opinions to line up with the Word of God, and not the other way around.	In this narrative, God's Word becomes life. Mary's initial response to the angel was to inquire how could she bear a child as a virgin. In verse 37 the angel Gabriel says, "Nothing is impossible with God." The word "nothing" in Greek is two words: no rhema. Rhema is the Greek word for "word," and it means revealed word. You may have experienced the rhema Word of God listening to a sermon—it may have seemed as if the words leaped from the microphone and landed right in your heart. Or maybe it happened while you were reading your Bible—the words jumped off the page and seemed to speak to the battle you were facing. That is the Word at work! When it becomes revelation to you, no word God speaks will be void of the power for it to happen.
	Write out Luke angel's news.	e 1:38 to discover Mary's response to the

After the Word became revelation to her, she believed. She had settled in her heart whatever God spoke to her would be true. When the rhema Word came, she was able to obey. Have you settled it in your heart that once you hear God speak, you will obey? If the Word of God doesn't seem to	work for you or you see promises in the Word which just don't seem to happen, remember God is not looking for your understanding or even your cooperation; He's looking for your obedience. We should say, "God, I may not understand it, but I choose to trust You anyway."	Note Taking Section
Can you remember a time y Word of God?	ou experienced the rhema	
Revelation Catalyst		
Ways to Activate the Word of God in Your Life Make God's Word a priority – We will always make time for the things important to us. Just as our bodies need food for fuel, our spirits need the Word.	Meditate on Scriptures – Read the Word, and think about it. Study it, say it to yourself, talk about it with your friends, write it down in a journal, and post it on your refrigerator or wall. Doing so paves the way for <i>rhema</i> or revelation to take place, and puts faith	

into motion.

As you spend time reading your Bible

each day, it will come alive to you.

Note Taking Section	Believe what you read – Choose to believe the Word is true. God says it is impossible to please Him without faith. The reason people don't like to pray is because their prayers don't seem to work. Faith makes prayer work. Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word about Christ. (Romans 10:17, NIV). Psalm 1:2 says the righteous man delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night. God gives us revelation through His Word. The revelation gives us faith. Faith makes things happen!
	Food for Thought "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do." (Joshua 1:7).

Write out Joshua 1:8.	Note Taking Section	
Joshua was Moses' successor, and	"chew the cud." In other words, you	
his task was to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. For this mission to	should get all the nutrients out of it and swallow it. Then, recall it again, chew	
be successful, he had to teach the Israelites some principles about the Word of God. In the verse you just	on it some more, and swallow it again. Chew on it all day long, and you'll be mindful of it, able to do what it says.	
wrote, the word "meditate" means	This is the secret to having the Word come alive in your life.	
	come diive in your life.	
Living Words		
Ways to Meditate on the Word of	true but rather to remind you of its	
God Speak God's Word aloud.	truth. When the Word comes out of your mouth, it can build your faith.	
It's not enough just to read it every day with daily Bible reading. You need	Speak the Word over situations. For example, when you face trouble	
to find Scripture you can speak. The purpose is not to convince God it's	or battles, use verses you have memorized, such as 1 John 4:4,	

Note Taking Section	"Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world." (NASB). If the passage is not in first person, change it to first person by putting your name in it. When nothing seems to make sense, remind yourself, out loud, of the truth. Write out the following verses them. Then say them aloud.	Read Luke 10:19 this way, "God has given me (put your name here) power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt me." (KJV). s, and put your name into
	Psalm 27:1	
	Psalm 103:2-3 Philippians 4:19	

Think about the Word day and night.

If you are tuned in to God for only one of your 16 waking hours, then the remaining 15 hours you may be tuned into your job, the TV, or your problems. Have you ever wondered why the "world" is more real to us than God and His truth? It's because you spend more time in that world. Bring your world and God's world together, and make them one. Your secular world

shouldn't be any different than your sacred world. In meditation, frequency is the key; it's not how much, it's how often. Reading the Bible three times a year may be a great goal, but it will be meaningless if you aren't meditating on the Word. Learn how to find nuggets and chew on them; do this day and night. Read a verse 10 times in a day instead of reading for 30 minutes.

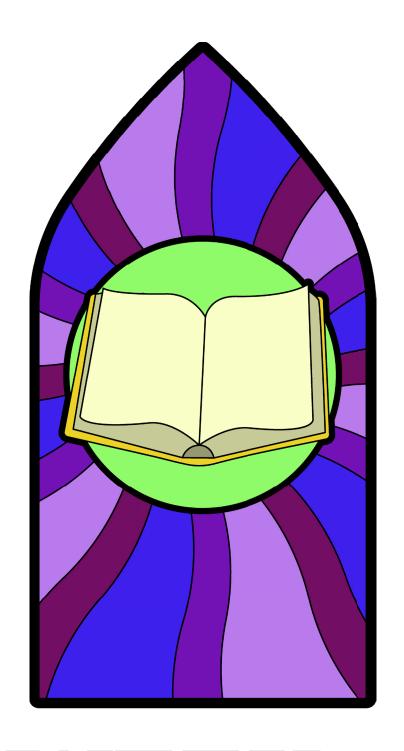
Note Taking Section

In Proverbs 3:1-4, underline what you are to do with God's Words. "My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave vou! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good

reputation."

Note Taking Section	Do what is written. Sometimes you are great at studying the Word, learning it, getting excited about it, but do you consistently do what it says? What would it be like if you started practicing the Bible? If you want to be prosperous and successful, Read James 1:22. According we deceive ourselves.	then here's the secret. "Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed." (Joshua 1:8). The promises of God are fulfilled when we walk in obedience to His Word. To this verse how can
	In James 1:23–25 we find a spiritual law of God. "For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard,	then God will bless you for doing it." The promise has a premise. Make your Bible time sacred—don't let anybody interrupt. Get one verse that comes alive, say it aloud, think about it all day long, do it, and see what happens.
	Meditation will turn to revelop faith. When faith is activated As you have studied the Word of God in faith has been activated. Meditating on With God's Word in your heart, your work agent of change in your own life and the	these last few lessons, hopefully your God's Word always has that result. ds will bring forth life, and you will be an

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 10 SECTION THREE VIDEO – NOTES

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11).

Overview

This week, your group will watch the third DVD and begin the last section, Vessels of Honor. Throughout this last section, there is a powerful theme: In order to realize our purpose and move toward the heavenly prize, we need to be equipped in spiritual warfare and live each day as a worshiper of the One who is worthy of all glory, and honor, and power.

Main Focus

Our firm foundation in spiritual warfare is the extravagant love of God. Sometimes, being aware there is a spiritual battle can cause new believers to be afraid. We can be assured God is actively involved in our lives and provides safety in the shadow of His wings. Psalm 91:10 says, "... no harm will befall you." If we walk in fear, we do not understand the magnitude of the Father's love toward us. Perfect (mature) love casts out all fear.

The enemy comes at us with the same strategies he has used from the beginning of mankind, but God has given us mighty weapons of warfare to demolish strongholds! A good starting

point for overcoming the enemy is realizing we have been equipped to succeed in everything the Lord calls us to do (2 Peter 1:3).

In addition to having a calling on our lives, we actually get to choose the way and the degree to which we will serve God. If we are not satisfied with where we are, there is always more. To be a vessel the Lord will use time and again, we must let the Holy Spirit examine our lives, and when he shows us an area of sin, we must ask for forgiveness and turn away from it. The Lord doesn't condemn us; He convicts us so we can have His best! A victorious life begins and ends with worship. It is a priority and a privilege for the believer. Worship rearranges our focus from personal circumstances and agendas to the Lord and His love, His provision, and His perspective.

WEEK 1 Section Three Video: Video

Note Taking Section	

Discussion Points

- What place does warfare have in your life?
 Discuss what it is and why we don't have to be afraid.
- What kind of strategies does the enemy use to attack us? Discuss ways to identify and defeat the enemy.
- How did God display His grace, love, and friendship for us through the cross? Discuss the benefits of the cross payment for sin, healing from sickness and disease, eternal life with Christ.
- Read 2 Corinthians 13:14 from the Message translation.
 "The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you." Discuss the three persons of the Trinity and how we can experience the grace, love, and friendship of God.

Take-Aways

Taking the Lead

Share about a

time you were

afraid and the

Lord gave you

courage.

In your daily life, focus on the cross of Christ rather than focusing on your sin. Take note of each time you experience guilt and condemnation. The enemy brings condemnation; the Holy Spirit convicts and forgives. Immediately set your mind on things above, where you are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ.

Ask your participants to be aware over the coming weeks of the conflicts and challenging situations which may have a spiritual root they may not have been aware of in the past. Discuss next week. Point out the Armor of God Prayer on page 165. Encourage them to begin to pray and put on the full armor of God each day.

Prayer Focus

- Ask the Lord to give them eyes to see how Satan is attempting to steal, kill, and destroy the lives of participants.
- Pray for participants to gain insight to the cross and encounter its power.
- Pray participants are constantly reminded of their victory in Jesus, and pray they would gain insight on how being aware of their enemy and spiritual warfare is a position of strength and should not lead to fear.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to each participant the extravagant love God has for them, and pray they would encounter Him in deeper levels of intimacy.

Participants Section

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." (Acts 10:38, NIV).

Note Taking Section

Three Things to Know

1. Demons are

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelation 12:7-9, NIV).

2. Demons want to

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith... (1 Peter 5:8-9, NIV). Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. (Ephesians 5:11, NIV).

3. Demons respond to a_

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:10-12, NIV).

WEEK 1 Section Three Video: Video

Note Taking Section	Authority
	1. The highest authority The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:17-19, NIV). That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. (Philippians 2:10, NIV).
	2. The authority of Matthew 4 and Luke 4 "It is written:"
	3. The authority of the
	He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. (Matthew 10:1, NIV).
	No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ. (Romans 8:37-39).
	Three Daily Steps
	1. Submit yourself Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:7-8, NIV).
	2. Close any If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11, NIV).
	In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Ephesians 4:26-27, NIV).
	3. Confront your. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NIV).

	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 11 VESSELS OF HONOR

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

And so, dear brothers and sisters I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. (Romans 12:1).

Overview

This week we discuss how to become a vessel of honor.

After salvation, there are many (unending) levels of growth. Each level prepares us for the next. We can stop at any point, and stay where we are; however, to be useful to the Lord and His kingdom, we must push ahead.

We can invite the Holy Spirit to examine our lives and point out any areas which keep us from being used for noble purposes. We need to give Him full permission to examine our lives and point out unredeemed beliefs, attitudes, and actions. Being a Vessel of Honor is an issue of sanctification, not justification.

Temptation comes from the enemy alone. We must be quick to take captive every thought not in agreement with Scripture and act in accordance with truth.

Main Focus

After salvation, we get to choose the level of intimacy we have with the Lord. We can "sit on the bleachers" or have a "leave it all on the field" approach."

In order to be vessels of honor, we must stay in the ready position. It means we should continually immerse ourselves in the Word daily and seek the Lord in worship. Then, we will be prepared to serve the Lord when He calls. In essence, we stay in spiritual order. With our spirits strong and calling the shots we are prepared to "take the call." A life with the Lord is filled with blessing and provision. If He only offered us eternal life, it would have been more than enough, but He goes beyond that and offers us complete healing and restoration in every area of our life. Then, He allows us the privilege of serving others and setting them free. God unlocks us from our past and hands us the keys to unlock others. Spiritual order, reading the Word, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and daily prayer are great weapons to help us to continually win our battles against the enemy. Open doors give the enemy access to our lives and relationships.

 Examples of Open Doors Anger, resentment, unforgiveness (By this point your participants may be comfortable enough to release some of these. Allow the Holy Spirit to move.) Unresolved conflict in relationships Known sin in our lives like addictions, adultery, pornography Movies, books, friends, which draw us away from God 	 Peview justification and sanctification. Discuss them again if the group is still unclear. What are some of the lies the enemy tells us about our ability to be used by God? Discuss solutions to the problem. What are you allowing into your eyes and ears daily that may be drawing you away from spiritual order and thereby limiting your use in the kingdom? Talk about ways you can put guards over your eyes and ears. Are there any open doors in your life? Give them examples of open doors (see list, left), and explain how to close them through casting off the hooks and filling/loosing fruits of the Spirit and life-giving blessings.
rather, connecting to your purpose, then leveraging them for the Kingdo we are Ambassadors for Christ, here	serving more, reading more, or even praying more. It is realizing the gifts the Lord has placed inside of you, and om. We do it because we have an eternal perspective to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. The property of the could ever imagine!
would have been more than enough healing and restoration in every area others and setting them free. God ununlock others. Spiritual order, reading the Word, Ba	ng and provision. If He only offered us eternal life, it it, but He goes beyond that and offers us complete a of our life. Then, He allows us the privilege of serving nlocks us from our past and hands us the keys to aptism of the Holy Spirit, and daily prayer are great in our battles against the enemy. Open doors give the onships.
Taking the Lead Share an area you have struggled with and testify how the Lord set you free from the Pray part stand to ground have in have in their live	articipants will have supernatural boldness to up to the enemy in any area he has taken and for courage to enforce the victory they Christ. Lord to show participants any open doors in

Participants Section

"In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for His purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."

(2 Timothy 2:20-21 MSG).

Note Taking Section		

Hopefully by now, you are starting to see a new way of living, a new way of viewing yourself, and a new way of viewing God. When you were still far away, He came looking for you, and His love for you is overwhelming. He forgave your sins, gave you abundant life, and is preparing a place for you

in heaven. He also made you with specific skills and talents and a unique personality, and all of those attributes can be used to reach others, to help them understand God loves them, too, and His plan has always been for them to have an abundant life.

WEEK To Vessels of Honor

Note Taking Section	Silver & Gold	
	In the passage beginning this chapter, Paul uses an analogy of items in a house to describe believers and how we can be useful to God by serving Him and fulfilling our respective destinies. We see some items are inexpensive and ordinary, but others are honorable, used for special occasions. In the Master's hand, these utensils can accomplish great things. Every person is at a different place in his or her walk with Christ. No two stories are the same, and no one starts out as silver or gold; it is a process. It is	God who prepares us, refines us, and makes us honorable. Fine china is used for noble purposes, not paper plates. If you decide you aren't satisfied with being a paper plate and want the next level of Christianity, you can have it! You may not feel special or honorable at this moment, but God sees you this way. You are not defined or limited by your past. He makes all things new, brand new (2 Corinthians 5:17), and He wants you to be a vessel of honor.
	Ask Yourself: Am I satisfied where life to be different?	e I am with God? How do I want my
	We may look at another person's life and think he or she is a stellar Christian. He may look holy and righteous, but looks can be deceiving. We can't tell from the outside what is going on inside a person's heart. When you look at the dishes in a dishwasher, sometimes you can't tell if they have	on the surface! The Lord knows when there is something in our lives keeping us from being fit for His use and every good work. Will you let the Lord put the spotlight on your life? John 16:8 says He convicts the world of sin, and He will judge us according to His righteousness. The Lord wants to

been washed. Even if you inspect

them closely and they look clean,

they may be covered in tiny germs.

You wouldn't want to eat on a dirty

plate no matter how clean it looks

bring you to another level of personal

plate domain to the fine china realm.

The Lord will do a miracle in your life if

you will allow Him.

integrity and move you from the paper

		Note Taking Section
let the Lord sh	of any areas of your life you are willing to nine His light on and clean up? Write them	
here as a way	y of offering them to the Lord.	
Justification of	and Sanctification	
In Week Four, Spirito Remember, justifico		
Jesus becomes your Savior, at that very moment every sin of your past is wiped clean. God removes the junk of yesterday, just as if you had never sinned. When He looks at you, you are perfect in His sight.		
, ,		
"Who will b	ring any charge against those	
	has chosen? It is God who justifies."	
(Romans 8:	33).	
	Sanctification is when we let God make us more like Him.	
	It is not an event; it's the process of becoming fit for the Master. It's a journey to allow God to mold and transform	
THINK ABOUT IT	our character. Let's look again at 2 Timothy 2:21 where it	
You begin to live	says, "If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the	
only when you give your	Master and prepared to do any good work." Here, the word "master" is the Greek word <i>dispotus</i> , which means	
life away.	a person who is a ruler with absolute power and authority	
	over others. We often think of God as Friend, Savior, Protector, and He is all of those things—but He is also Lord.	
	This means He calls the shots! We must become servants of	

the Lord before He can fulfill His purpose in us. The servant

level of our journey is actually the highest level.

WEEK 1 1 Vessels of Honor

Note Taking Section		
	Why the body? It is the place where sin functions. It could be what we say with our mouths, something we look at with our eyes, or things we touch. In Job 31:1, a righteous man says, "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust upon a young woman." When we are intentional, our decisions will be different. You will be well on your way to becoming a vessel of honor if you are willing to say each day, "Here I am Lord, clean me up. Take each member of my body and the things that I have done and wash me. Take my appetites, my addictions, my habits, my tongue, my attitudes, and consecrate them." Underline the first word of each command in the following.	Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. (2 Timothy 2:22). Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:12-14).
	Here is a way you can offer yo	a prayer guide. Write it say it aloud. You could start don't want sin to control the as where I have allowed sin

Write out Matthew 20:26.	Note Taking Section
Wille Our Mailiew 20.28.	
Read the four stages listed below, identifying where you are now.	
Four Stages of Christianity	
,	
 Unbelievers become believers. Believers become disciples who begin to grow. Disciples become leaders who find their purpose in life. Leaders become servants. 	
Honor In ActionOffer my body.	
Renew my mind. etc.	
"Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with	
you to give your bodies to God. Let them	
be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind	
He will accept. When you think of what	
He has done for you, is this too much to ask?" (Romans 12:1).	
usk: (Nomuns 12.1).	

WEEK To Vessels of Honor

Note Taking Section	Renew my mind.	
	"Don't copy the behavior and custor you into a new person by changing t	
	Why renew my mind? We are living sacr functions in the body, but the mind con-	
	"For though we live in the world, we define the weapons we fight with are not the contrary, they have divine power to arguments and every pretension that of God, and we take captive every to (2 Corinthians 10:3–5, NIV).	e weapons of the world. On the demolish strongholds. We demolish t sets itself up against the knowledge
	The Bible tells us spiritual warfare is a part of following Christ. Many Christians love God, but have no clue how to fight. It is a necessity because your enemy, the devil, is scheming to destroy you (1 Peter 5:8). One of the ways we fight is by	Here is the main question in spiritual warfare, "Can the devil get you to believe him?" We must take our thoughts captive and compare them to what the Bible says is true. Minimize your exposure to worldly thinking, such as music, TV, movies, books, and entertainment, and saturate yourself
	demolishing arguments. An argument is an idea. The devil's job is to give you thoughts contrary to God's thoughts. There are a lot of ideas,	with His Word. When you turn off the programming of the world, the voice of God will become clearer to you.
	even about God, which are simply wrong because they are contrary to Scripture. Don't listen to these voices; listen to the Word of God. For example, if the Bible says, "By His stripes you are healed." (Isaiah 53:5), believe it! Warfare is exchanging the	Renewing our mind by the Word of God means we use Scripture to combat the lies of the enemy. In the following chart, write the truth from Scripture that would take captive the lie of the enemy.

report of the world for the report of the Lord. Peace can reign and rule in your heart simply because the Word

says it can.

Lie of the Enemy	Truth from Scripture	Note Taking Section
You are confused.	I Corinthians 2:16	
You are fearful.	2 Timothy 1:7	
There is no hope.	Jeremiah 29:11	
You're going to die.	Psalm 118:17	
Something bad is going to happen.	Psalm 91:10	
God can't hear you.	Psalm 34:17	
Nothing will ever	Isaiah 43:18–19	
change.	13UIU11 40.10-17	

WEEK 1 1 Vessels of Honor

Note Taking Section			
	- Surrender my will.		
	"Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is." (Romans 12:2).		
	Why surrender my will? The body acts out sin; the mind controls the body; but the will controls my mind. As we surrender our will, His perfect will becomes the goal of our lives. Jesus told us to pray this way. "Your kingdom come, Your will be done." It means don't come to prayer with	your agenda. We cannot manipulate God. Instead approach Him with this mentality. "Lord, you are my Shepherd I shall not want. What I want is what You want." Come to Him with a neutra heart. If you are strongly leaning one way or the other, God's voice will be difficult to discern.	
	Write out Luke 22:42.		
	. <u></u>		
	When we pray this way and surrender every part of our lives. When we do so, the Lord. He will stir up purpose, and w reach others with the Good News abo	e will begin to realize our dreams and	

Note Taking Section Royal Rumble "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9). Being useful in the Kingdom has its tactics. The enemy knows the best price. You will get the attention of way to delay your progress is to the enemy. His attacks should be trap you in sin. His trap often comes anticipated and taken as a sign of in the form of enticements—with encouragement; you are a threat to possessions or circumstances which his plans to keep the world in darkness. seem better or appeal to you more Here's some good news! You belong than what you have. When we are to God. It is a fact the enemy cannot tempted, our character is tested change. You can also prepare for through desires in our soul and body. battle by studying your opponent's "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is fullgrown, brings forth death." (James 1:14–15). Using this passage, fill in the blanks. Temptation leads to sin which leads to death. "Remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, 'God is tempting me.' God is never tempted to do wrong, and He never tempts anyone else."

(James 1:13).

Note Taking Section	God never tempts us! Satan and his hosts of demons are the tempters. Satan is a created being and cannot be everywhere at the same time. The Bible says when he fell from heaven, he took one third of the angels with him (Revelation 12:4). Demons are Satan's servants sent out to destroy our lives. Satan has had the role of tempting mankind since he tempted Write out Ephesians 6:12.	Eve in the garden. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). Jesus, our High Priest, "understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same temptations we do, yet He did not sin." (Hebrews 4:15). Because He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world, we can stand against temptation (1 John 4:4).
	Often the ideas the enemy of and tailormade for us we will our own. But the Bible says we power within us to withstand enemy. Read James 4:7. Whenchoose to resist the devil's te	Il believe the thoughts are we as believers have the levery temptation of the nat happens when we

Write out 1 Corinthians 10:13. What will God do for you when the temptations seem unbearable?

Jesus gives us insight into how to withstand temptation. In the garden of Gethsemane, before He was arrested and crucified, He told His disciples, "Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough, the body is weak." (Matthew 26:41). In other words, just keep the dialogue going with God. Open communication keeps us safe and aware. Wise parents of teenagers know

the value in simply talking to their sons or daughters. A strong relationship between parents and children provides protection. Can you see the active role you play in your own deliverance from evil? You have the choice and the power to withstand the enemy. You can choose to succumb to Satan's pressure and give him a foothold in your life (Ephesians 4:27) or you can submit to God.

The Breakdown

For rock climbers, a foothold is the place they step so they can advance up the side of a mountain. For the enemy, it is a base for advancing his destruction of God's plans in our lives. A foothold gives him control over an area of the soul, and it can occur when we give in to temptation. Over time, as we give in over and over to a particular temptation, the control in that area will grow. Proverbs 5:22 says, "An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him." A foothold can become a stronghold or a fortress in the soul. Strongholds must be torn down.

Areas of bondage can include anger and rage, abuse, lust, alcoholism, drugs, profanity, or lying. The list is unlimited. Footholds can be lodged in our souls early in life, particularly if the environment in which we grew up was conducive to a certain sin. For example, if there was often rage in your home, rage might be a natural way to respond for you. Areas of bondage can also be developed because of the generational sin of our parents or grandparents. Jesus says in John 8:34, "I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave of sin." Underline what we become if we continue to sin.

THINK ABOUT IT

Our enemy has been defeated, but we have to enforce his defeat in our lives.

Be Free: Living In Freedom Everyday 161

Note Taking Section

WEEK 1 1 Vessels of Honor

Note Taking Section	Golden Rules "Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants." (2 Timothy 2:24-26).		
	To combat enemy attacks (oppression), we need to repent of sin and cast off the powers of darkness. Often people believe simply the admission of sin clears their conscience and frees them from any consequence or responsibility. Admitting a sin is a part of	repentance, but it is not repentance. Repentance means to turn away from the sin and choose to no longer continue in it. Titus 2:12 shows us we can say "no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives."	
	Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Wh person who struggles with tu		
	Read Romans 2:4. Name so to repentance.	mething else that leads us	
	If you find yourself in a cycle of sin,	steps of the godly are directed by the	
	don't give up hope! God desires to help you break the cycle. Ask Him to give you godly sorrow which leads to repentance. Meditate on His goodness	LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand." (Psalm 37:23–24).	

and His kindness. And remember, "The

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

When we repent, 1 John 1:7 says the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. But often people feel they aren't forgiven even after confessing and repenting of a sin many times. Have you ever had that experience? It may be because you need to cast off any demon spirit associated with the sin. Don't be afraid to do so—the Holy Spirit is with you; God promises to never leave or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8). Remember, "We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the devil's strongholds." (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Unrepented sin over time will allow the enemy to gain a foothold, which feels like a "hook" lodged in your soul. When you are least prepared, there will be a tug on the hook to make you feel unworthy and defeated. Even though the blood of Jesus has covered the sin through your repentance, you need to tell the enemy to get out by casting him off in the name of Jesus and removing the hook. This will destroy the demonic hold and release you to experience the peace of God's forgiveness. After the hook is removed, ask the Lord to heal the wound and fill the space with His peace and power.

Note Taking Section

Write out Romans 13:12.

As an example, consider the following prayers for the release of the bondage of, or continual struggle with, the sin of lying.

Repent: "Dear God, in the Name of Jesus, I repent of the sin of lying. I repent of the destruction and lack of trust caused by this sin. I choose to be an honest person and truthful with all of my words."

Cast Off: "I now cast off every lying spirit. Satan, you have been a liar from the beginning, and you are the father of lies. You have no more legal right in my life. In the Name of Jesus, I break all ties with every lying spirit that has dominated my life. I break every hold so these spirits have had on my life. I cancel every agreement

I have made with you. I command you to remove your foothold from my life and leave me now. I release peace and power of the Holy Spirit in my life, and Lord, I ask You to give me wisdom and strength to overcome darkness and stand on Your truth every day. In the Name of Jesus and by His blood, I pray. Amen."

WEEK 1 1 Vessels of Honor

Note Taking Section		
	 rejection abuse self-hatred unworthiness depression pride unforgiveness 	 greed guilt/shame lust/ sexual impurity control anger fear
	Honor Roll	
	You were made to be a Vessel of Honor. This status includes fighting the enemy and reordering your life. Though it can be challenging and messy at times—battles typically are—the rewards are immeasurable. Obedience brings blessing to your life (Deuteronomy 11:27). In addition, God will use you as a catalyst for peace in your family, joy in your neighborhoods, and change in your schools and places of business.	Though the big vision may seem a bit overwhelming, success will come by simply doing the little things. Spend time with the Lord, and apply Tree of Life living to the decisions you make each day. In this way, you will automatically begin to shine a light before men capable of driving away darkness and filling a lost, broken, and lonely world with great hope.
	Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Write shown you where you need delistronghold. Use a concordance out Scriptures that apply. These advancement of the enemy and you in line with the Tree of Life.	iverance from a foothold or to look up this topic, and write verses are weapons to stop the

Contemplate the following areas, pray through prayers of repentance, and renounce any areas you believe Satan may have gained a foothold. Pray for the Holy Spirit's discernment and guidance.	Note Taking Section
Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	



WEEK 12 WORSHIP

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased. (Revelation 4:11).

Overview

Worship is powerful, and it's the focus of this week. Consider having an extended worship time, and get creative with the approach. If you or someone in the group is a skilled musician, kick things off with a little live worship. You could also use an online video with lyrics on-screen (try youtube. com), which can be helpful in singing along as well as thought provoking (Note: If you choose this approach, be sure to screen the entire video before showing to your group). You could also invite participants to take turns praying during a song—this is a great way to model how worship can be a part of their personal prayer time.

This will be your last meeting before the retreat, so it's a great time to share a little bit about your experience with the retreat and also answer any questions they may have. Be sure to have your computer set up for anyone who still needs to register. If you have participants who are not committed after this meeting, call them before the retreat and encourage them to come.

Don't forget to plan your follow-up meeting. If at all possible, it is best to gather the week immediately following the retreat to keep the momentum going. It will be a powerful and important meeting for your participants. This meeting will show them how to connect their LIFE training and their experience at the retreat, and it will help them learn how to walk in freedom every day!

Main Focus

We are spiritual beings created to worship God. Worship leads us into safe, secret places, where we can experience healing. It is honoring to the Lord, and it is warfare against the enemy. God beckons us to come and find rest and to learn what can only be taught in His Presence.

We tend to base our worship of God on whether we feel worthy to worship rather than the fact God is worthy to be worshipped. Worship is not about our personal worth; God has made us worthy through His Son Jesus. In Ezekiel 47, the Lord invited him into the deepest part of the water. When Ezekiel could no longer touch the bottom, he surrendered all control and found himself in a river teeming with life. This Holy Spirit River brought life and healing wherever it flowed. The Lord invites us out to the deepest part of this river through worship.

Taking the Lead Share how prayer and worship have changed for you since you started growing closer to the Lord.	 Discussion Points Do you have a place at home where you can go to worship and pray? Discuss other ways and places where you can go to worship. How do you schedule time with God? Talk about the importance of making this a priority, and challenge participants to schedule a meet-up time with God. Ask them to write it on their calendars.
need corporate as vis a reflection of our prayer requests, end they can worship the communication with like acts of service, s	nip music as the background for their prayer time. We well as personal worship. Our ability to worship corporately personal worship time. If God seems silent on their courage them to worship through it. Share with them how the Lord throughout the day. We should walk in constant in the Lord. Discuss practical ways participants can worship, ubmission to authority, and speaking words of life over lee. Encourage participants to review Set Apart - preparing appendix.
 among the peop Pray for them to Pray the Lord use into their ministry Bind the enemy Pray the Lord wo 	ive them a worshiper's heart and for them to be counted ble who worship in spirit and truth. experience the secret place of the Lord in their worship time as what they have learned this semester to catapult them and purpose. From stealing spiritual progress from them. rks out all the details for them to be at the retreat. Ask the at them there and radically change their lives for the glory of

Participants Section

"For the dead cannot praise You; they cannot raise their voices in praise. Those who go down to destruction can no longer hope in your faithfulness. Only the living can praise you as I do today. Each generation can make known your faithfulness to the next." (Isaiah 38:18–19).

Hopefully, during the past couple of months something wonderful has happened; you realized God is completely in love with you. In response to His love, you have come to trust Him, and because of the relationship, you have fallen in love with Him. Being in love with God allows you to move from duty to devotion. You don't have to follow His commands, you want to because you know they are good.

An overflow of your relationship with God is Worship. Worship is more than a song; it is a lifestyle. It can be expressed through acts of service, words of affirmation, and gift giving, as well as singing, dancing, and even shouting. Living this way produces purity, confidence, and strength in us, and then something amazing happens - We become warriors in God's kingdom.

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Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	Love & War	
	Worship is actually an act of warfare against Satan and demonic forces! Our worship puts the devil on the run and increases our ability to fight against powers of darkness in the heavenly realm. Psalm 149:6 says, "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand." When you give God your high praises, it is warfare against Satan. When we give God all our attention, we strip the enemy of any power over our souls or our bodies. In His Presence, we are	protected from all the schemes of the enemy. We become like Jesus who proclaimed the ruler of this world "has nothing in Me." (John 14:30, NASB). How are we able to come boldly into the presence of God? The blood of Jesus. Hebrews 9:22 says, "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins." Without the forgiveness of sins there is no presence of God. The blood of Jesus has removed every spot and stain from your life and invites you into the presence of God.
	Ask Yourself: Have I considered role as a worshippe	the power and the privilege of my er?
	Nothing but the Blood	
	When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God said, "You will surely die." Obviously, He was referring to spiritual death because they went on to live very long lives after they were banished from the garden. Remember, sin has consequences. Even though God departed from man's spirit when man sinned, He did	Throughout the Old Testament, the forgiveness of sins could happen only through sacrifices of certain animals. God considered these blood sacrifices to be acts of worship. The blood of the animals would be poured on the horns of the brazen alter at the entrance to the tabernacle. Then, it was taken into the Holy of Holies, a

not abandon His creation. For Adam

garments of animal skins. This was the

and Eve, He covered them with

first blood sacrifice.

sacred place containing the Ark of the Covenant, which housed the tablets

with God's Law written on them (the Ten

Commandments). The blood would be put on the mercy seat of the ark, and when the sacrifice was appropriate and right, the presence of God would fall.

170 Be Free: Living In Freedom Everyday

THINK ABOUT IT The very Presence of God now lives in your heart because of Jesus.	Holy Place from the Place) where the prepresented the income the high priest. When the veil was torn from bottom to top He was moving out	s, there was a thick veil separating the e Holy of Holies (also called the Most Holy oresence of God dwelled. The veil approachability of God to all except en Jesus gave up His Spirit on the cross, om top to bottom. Notice it was not torn b. God tore this veil from above because tof that place. A few weeks later at the God moved into the hearts of believers.	Note Taking Section
Truth Unveiled			
mighty wind, and Then there appe	d it filled the whole	nd from heaven, as of a rushing e house where they were sitting. ded tongues, as of fire, and one -4).	
Write out Acts	2:4.		
This incredible exper Presence of God de was made possible sacrifice of the bloo God for this new and Once and for all time	escribed in Acts 2 by the acceptable d of Jesus. Thank d better way for us!	Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. He took his own blood, and with it He secured our salvation forever." (Hebrews 9:12). This salvation includes eternal life with God, healing for our souls and our bodies, and deliverance	
Priest, "took blood in	nto that Most Holy	from all the powers of the enemy.	

Note Taking Section	of the believe		sod says Satan, the accuser es them before God day and t verse 11.
	The blood of Jesus h Satan. As believers, from victory and no has already been to already been won; foe. There is nothing	we are fighting to victory! The veil orn; the victory has Satan is a defeated	God's Presence! Now, we can be in an intimate relationship with Him. Like a groom, He has already declared and expressed His love for us; we need only to receive His love and learn how to love Him in return.
	THINK ABOUT IT Worship is the highest priority of the believer.	hearts. In Matthew honor Him with thei Their worship is a fa a heart consistently connections happe	wants more than anything else is our 15:7-9, Jesus says there are people who r words, "but their hearts are far away. rce." Genuine worship comes from connected with God, and those en in two ways: corporately (at church with fellow believers) and personally e).
		when we join toget Even if you come to burdened by cares a worshipful enviror accomplished if we and cultivate an at	is important because our faith increases ther with other like-minded believers. It church or small group distracted and is, your attitude can quickly change in ament. Personal worship can only be take the initiative, adjust our attitudes, amosphere of praise. Wherever we are, the can have the attitude of a worshiper ence of God.
	Ask Yourself:	Am I still fighting for me from letting go?	control of my life? What is keeping

Lessons from a River

Though we desire to have a real relationship with God—one we have seen and heard is possible—sometimes it just doesn't seem possible. Have you ever tried to read the Bible but find yourself reading the same verses over and over without any progress? Or have you tried to pray, but it feels like your prayers are hitting the ceiling? If you can relate, you may need to evaluate your level of surrender. God wants your trust as much as He wants your heart because without your trust, your heart will never be completely His. We often say, "You are my Lord," but

then when there's a bump in the road, and we grab at the steering wheel. Most Christians get distracted by trying to find the happiest, most pleasurable, most successful way to live, but the best way to discover God's will is to surrender control. It starts when we say, "My life is not my own. I know I've been bought with a high price, and I am Your slave by choice. What would you like me to do, King Jesus?" With that kind of attitude, He will lead you and bless you abundantly. In the middle of His will, He will give you success, happiness, and pleasure.

Note Taking Section		

Four Levels of Control in Worship

Four Levels of Control in Worship

- Ankle-deep: We can enjoy refreshing in God's presence, but we are in full command. We can splash and play, then choose to walk out of the river with no lasting effects on our lives.
- Knee-deep: The current of God (His Presence) can be felt, but we maintain control. In knee-deep water, we have a good view of those who've ventured out to deeper waters, and we see "in His presence is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11), but we still find security on the riverbank.
- Waist-deep: Here, the stream of His presence is strong. We've where we walked into deeper water, fighting the current and to keep contact with the bottom, rld. Often the fear of what others will think or the fear us. of losing control will tempt us to it is good. go back to the riverbank. It is at this place we make a crucial decision: Who will be in control: God or me?
- The Middle of the River: This is where we can experience all of the river. We stop fighting for control, and, instead, we pick our feet up and float, or allow His current to carry us. We go where He goes and it is good.

Note Taking Section		
	Read Ezekiel 47:1-12. The interesting thing about the vision is the river symbolizes the presence of God. The bottom, or the ground, which includes the bank of the river, represents the world. As we give up control to God, we will begin to experience His Presence, which will in turn help us live in spiritual order. Most people want to be wet and in ankle-deep, knee-deep, or even waist-deep water, but they want to stay in control. In other words, many want to do the "God thing," but want	to reserve just enough control so God doesn't take them too far. Those who live this way have believed the lie if they abandon themselves to His control, He will make them do things they don't want to do. They think He would embarrass them or send them to some faraway place they don't want to be. But the truth is God has only good things for His kids. You will never come to the place of true worship until you are honestly able to say, "God, have Your way."
	Write out Psalm 36:7-9.	
	life! Ezekiel 47:10 says, "Everything will live	river, and the river was now teeming with e where the river goes." (NASB). The leaves ot fail, and they will bear fruit every month epresent healing and the fish represent in when we abandon ourselves to God's
	Write out Proverbs 3:5-6.	

In John 4, Jesus said the time was coming when true worshippers would worship God in spirit and in truth. But what does that look like? Let's take a look at five actions below and study how they can help us become genuine worshippers.

Ways to Be a True Worshipper 1. Give Him your affection.

"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." (2 Chronicles 16:9).

God wants to be in a covenant (devoted,

Give Him your affection. Remain committed. Include Him in your life. Be obedient. Show reverence.	unbreakable) relationship with you which involves much more than singing songs. He wants us to desire and enjoy His presence. We worship Him out of the overflow of our hearts because He is worthy of the best we can offer Him.	
olace, O Lord Almighty. I lo	aving for worship. "How lovely is your dwelling ng, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of ge by writing out the second half of Psalm 84:2.	
2. Remain committee	d.	
o worshiping Him. Typically, peo eams. Everyone is excited abou vinning but are ready to aband o go. In the same way, we prais	od even when we don't feel like it; we are committed ple are conditional with God, just as they are with sports t the team as long as things are going well and they are on them when things do not go the way we want them e Him when all is well, but become apathetic when the sworthy of our worship in good times and bad, when we on't.	
Abednego and how they w Nebuchadnezzar. They said he God whom we serve is a	story of Shadrach, Meshach, and ere to be thrown in a fiery furnace by King , "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, able to save us. He will rescue us from your ." (Daniel 3:17). Write out verse 18.	
Decide vour commitment to Go	d is not conditional. You are not on this journey just	

because God is blessing you; you are in it because you are in a covenant relationship with Him. God responds to that level of worship.

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	3. Include Him in your life. "I am the vine; you are the brand who remain in Me, and I in them, much fruit. For apart from me you nothing." (John 15:5).	, will produce	THINK ABOUT IT This is the only relationship you will ever have where you get to choose the level of intimacy.
	We often struggle because our Sundays do not look like our Mondays. From the clothes we wear to the words we speak, we need to be consistent. When the "church world" becomes different than the rest of our world, it forces us to compartmentalize our lives. Our secular and sacred world should look the same. Often we don't know how to make God fit into our marriage, parenting, jobs, vacations, or hobbies. What would Write out Psalm 74:16.	happen if we made our lives? This is the upof worship. Give Himseven days a week! a headache, call upsomeone wrongs you Him. Don't compart all of you—because you and what happ (1 Peter 5:7).	oltimate sacrifice of 24 hours a day, When you have bon Him. When u at work, call upon mentalize; He wants He cares about

Note Taking Section 4. Be obedient. The first place in the Bible worship is mentioned is a story which reveals a heart of unconditional love for God. It is the story of Abraham laying Isaac on the altar in Genesis **God wants** 22. Abraham trusted God with the most important thing to to be a him—his son—and this was called worship. Living according to what the Bible says is worship. part of every part of Every day God attempts to involve us in His plans by your life. prompting us to meet the needs of others, to stop and pray, or to enjoy recreation with our families, but we often ignore Him. When Sunday rolls around, we "worship" Him and ask Him for things. Decide to be a worshipper who will focus your heart on worship every day. Amos 5:23 says, "Away with your hymns of praise! They are only noise to my ears. I will not listen to your music, no matter how lovely it is." Write out verse 24. The greatest sacrifice we can give to God is a heart of humility willing to serve Him with unconditional obedience. Read this incredible promise aloud: "The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me. I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him." (John 14:21, AMP).

Note Taking Section	5. Show reverence.	
	Worship and the fear of the Lord go hand in hand. In fact, Jesus said they are actually the same thing! In Matthew 4, we find the account of Jesus overcoming the temptation of Satan in the desert. The Bible says He was tempted in every way we are tempted (Hebrews 4:15). In response to each temptation, Jesus gained victory with a powerful weapon of warfare, the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17), which is the Word of God. After the first two temptations, Jesus accurately quoted the Scriptures; but after the third temptation, He	did something very interesting. He said, "Get out of here, Satan, for the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.'" This quote was taken from Deuteronomy 6:13. The curious thing about His response is He alters the Scripture. Deuteronomy 6:13 actually says, "Fear the Lord your God." His statement is Jesus' commentary on worship. Jesus was the Word, so he didn't misquote Himself, He was giving us insight. The kind of fear He was talking about and the word "worship" are interchangeable, and Jesus, who is the Word, had the liberty to give us this commentary.
	"But the time is coming and worshippers will worship the The Father is looking for any that way." (John 4:23).	Father in spirit and in truth.
	The Greek word for "worship" in this verse is proskuneo, which literally means "to kiss the master's hand in reverence." It indicates love and respect. Instead of fright, this kind of fear induces esteem and reverence.	When we fear the Lord, we actually feel safe. The word worship means you enjoy resting in His presence, but if He tells you to jump, you say, "How high, Lord?"
	"The fear of the Lord is the b who follow His precepts hav Him belongs eternal praise."	re good understanding. To

Look up the following verses. What does each say about the fear of the Lord?	Note Taking Section
me lear of the Lora:	
Proverbs 1:7	
Proverbs 8:13	
Proverbs 14:26	
Proverbs 14:27	
11076103 14.27	
Proverbs 19:23	

Note Taking Section			
	- In Spirit & Truth		
	"Here is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is the duty of every person. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad." (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14).		
	Each day we have an opportunity to live and love well, in ways which line up with the Word of God. We can't separate our love for Him from our submission to Him. God says He wants us to not only worship Him in spirit with expression, gratitude, and intimacy, but also in truth.	So, how do we worship in spirit and in truth? We need to ask Him to purify us. Real worship is pure worship. We can't come into church, jump up and down and clap our hands with outward expressions of praise, while not allowing God to deal with our secret sin and the areas where we have fallen short.	
	Hear the heart of humblene	ss in this prayer:	
	"Search me, O God, and know my anxious thousement that offends you, and le everlasting life." (Psalm 139)	ghts. Point out anything in ead me along the path of	
	Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your life which has grieved or quenched Him and be willing to come to a place of truth. Know this. The Holy Spirit convicts, but the devil condemns. Condemnation says, "Here's the problem. There's no way out." It is not	the voice of God. Our Heavenly Father tells us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 12:2). He sent His Son to save you, not condemn you (John 3:17). Conviction through the Holy Spirit says, "There's the problem, but there is hope."	

Pure Prayer

God's desire is to purify you. If there is an area you know you need to deal with, ask Him to forgive you. Here is an example of this kind of prayer. "Father, forgive me for offending you and for going my own way. I make no excuses for it; I confess my sin right now. (Say aloud anything you need to let go.) I want this sin out of my life, and I choose to turn away from it. I receive Your cleansing right now. I know you delight to show me mercy. Thank You, Lord, for letting me off the hook. Father, I make my decision to worship You in spirit and in truth. I worship You with all my heart and love You! In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

Remember the blood of Jesus. In Isaiah 1:18 God says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow." There is nothing like the clean, pure feeling of being forgiven!

The Midnight Hour

When we are totally focused on God—His goodness, provision, healing, deliverance, and holiness—we are actually in a posture of warfare against the enemy. Worship will bring down strongholds and change our environments.

Worship not only brings freedom in our lives, but it also has the power to set others free. In Acts 16:23-34, we find an account of Paul and Silas in jail. They had been arrested, flogged, and were now in the depths of a prison. Here they are, weary, surrounded by darkness, stenches, and criminals, and what did they do? They worshiped.

"Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!" (Acts 16:25-26).

Salvation came to many that night, including the jailer and his entire family. It demonstrated the power of true worship. Chains fell off and people were set free. When God is our first love and our focus, He will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). Choose to love Him with your whole life, and nothing will be impossible for you.

Note Taking Section

WEEK 12 Worship

Note Taking Section	
	Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

	Note Taking Section
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WEEK 13 SOUL CARE

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. (2 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Overview

Soul Care is spiritual formation. This week we will learn the value of soul care, the importance of submitting to the process of spiritual formation. We begin by gaining an understanding of the basis of soul care. Dallas Willard, American philosopher, in his book, Renovation of the Heart, explains, "Understanding is the basis of care. What you would take care of you must first understand, whether it be a petunia or a nation. If you would care for your spiritual core – your heart or your will – you must understand it."

Building on the significance of understanding spiritual formation, we will also be able to see it leads to a greater grasp on the good life God wants for us. J.C. Ryle, famous evangelical Anglican bishop, says it best in his book, Holiness, "We must be holy, because our present happiness depends a lot on it. We cannot be reminded of this too often. Sadly, we are apt to forget that there is a close relationship between sin and sorrow, holiness and happiness, sanctification and comfort. God has so wisely ordered it, that our happiness and our holiness are linked together. He has mercifully provided that even in this world it will be to a person's best interest to be holy." Our happiness is inextricably linked with our holiness, as believers, it is a truth we cannot escape.

To understand spiritual formation is the most sacrificial thing we can do for others. Again, we gain insight from Bishop J.C. Ryle, "We must be holy, because this is the most likely way to do good to others... [Our lives] are a silent sermon which all can read...I believe that far more is done for Christ's kingdom by the holy living of believers than we are aware of. There is a reality about such living which makes men feel, and obliges them to think. It carries a weight and influence with it which nothing else can give. It makes religion beautiful, and draws men to consider it, like a lighthouse seen afar off... You may talk to persons about the doctrines of the gospel, and few will listen, and still fewer understand. But your life is an argument that none can escape. There is a meaning about holiness which not even the most unlearned can help taking in. They may not understand justification, but they can understand charity."

Main Focus

Last week we learned we are spiritual beings created to worship God and God beckons us to come, find rest, and learn what can only be taught in His Presence. Spiritual formation is the process of spiritual maturation from the time of regeneration to the time of glorification. It is the transforming of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit. The problem of spiritual maturity/vitality in the church is a lack of understanding (and therefore a lack of engagement with) the transformational resources available in Jesus Christ through His Spirit.

 Taking the Lead Share with your group the ways spiritual formation has impacted your life and your relationship with the LORD.	Share the ways you have or your spiritual core? • How has your understan helped you enjoy the game share the good life mo	Idressing soul care in your life? ve learned to effectively care f Inding of spiritual formation good life? Imments you have personally t of cultivating spiritual formation.
	·	ped you help others? es of growth in your ability to help ur own spiritual formation.
	ion gap – the gap of knowle parates our reality from	edge, teaching, and practices of
 God's ideal. The truth ideal (excited about li	of where we are to the	THE SANCTIFICATION GAP The Ideal
 Soul care and spiritual though we don't know changes us. It is a mys aren't magical. The Hand instantly "zap" avour lives. It also doesn	oly Spirit doesn't show up way sin or "zap" joy into 't happen through sheer	A gap of knowledge, teaching, and practices of spiritual transformation
While we can try to be there is no way we can counted as holy on out holy, with the willpower to redouble our efforts. Spirit is largely out of the	an be good enough to be ur own. And if we fail to be er theory of growth, we try is and try harder. The Holy the picture except as the when we do wrong and	ldeal 1. Excited 2. Bored/Numb 3. Work (Sincere) 4. Work (Frustration) 5. Work (Burden) 6. Work (Confusion) 7. Despair
 Prayer Focus		Truth of where we are
 minds to their need Pray for them to ex Pray each particip begin to find their Bind the enemy from 		the Holy Spirit so they can try.

Participants Section

"But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ."

(I John 2:27).

Over these few months we have spent together, there is no doubt you have learned much. You know the depth and breadth of God's love for you, you know you can trust him, and you have grown to love Him. You also know He wants to transform you fully, so you can enjoy the abundant life He desires for you. He accomplishes the task through soul care, spiritual formation via the Holy Spirit as the verse above describes.

As a believer, the Spirit of Christ lives in you. You are Christ's anointed, and His anointing teaches you the truth. With true spiritual formation, you are transformed, able to resist the lies presented by the enemy and his false teachers. Spiritual formation allows you to live deeply in the truths you have received by the Holy Spirit.

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	Relational Formation	
	The central idea is human beings were made (like a fish was made for water) for an interpersonal attachment/ communion with God the Father by Jesus Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Relationship with God is an ontological (state of being, existence) reality for the believer and the relationship is inherently transformational. We read in I John 4:18, "perfect love casts out fear." Paul testifies in 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom." In Galatians 5:16, Paul declares if you "walk by the spirit, you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." In Matthew 6:31 and 32, Jesus reminds	knows all your needs." In John 15:4, He tells believers, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." In these passages it is clear neither doctrine nor ethics alone can define our discipleship. We are instructed to remain in Christ in order to be nourished and thrive as believers, much like branches are nourished and strengthened by the vine. The relationship Jesus describes is not negotiable but a part of following Him which provides transforming spirituality – soul care. Genuine transformation, which is spiritual formation, in Christ
	us, "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already	comes through abiding, ongoing, personal intimacy with God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son and by the Holy Spirit.
	Ask Yourself: Have I experienced	spiritual formation and if so how?
	The Challenge with	Could be set
	Spiritual Formation	Soul/Heart
	Original sin is the premise of all humans having inherited the consequences of the first sin in the	→ Flesh

garden of Eden. The concept of original sin leaves us disconnected

from God at conception.

The Relational Dimension

Apart from God, fleshly mankind is morally weak and comes under the domination of sin's power. In the ethical sense flesh denotes the human individual living as mere man apart from the power of God and thus under sin.

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives your life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

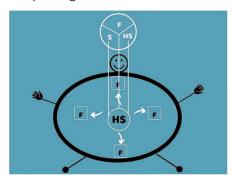
Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. (Romans 8:5-13).

In this respect, all the unsaved live in the realm of the flesh (sin), fulfilling the desires of the flesh. Believers, on the other hand, are to get rid of the deeds of the flesh (sin), by the power of the Holy Spirit living within us.

It is a task easier said than done. The problem is we are deeply habituated to depend on ourselves to live in autonomy from God. Scripture makes it clear – sin presents an obstacle to cultivating a deep dependence on God.

Write out Romans 13:14.

We are instructed to put on the Lord Jesus Christ (clothing ourselves) and make no provision for the flesh (sin/evil desires) in regard to its lust.



To be filled with the Spirit is to be retrained in all our spiritual capacities with the Holy Spirit. It is challenging and often the reason spiritual formation is slow.

Soul/Heart when Born Again
/(HS) → Flesh

Note Taking Section

Note Taking Section	The Recalcitrant Nature Of The Flesh		
	Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still	one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world? (I Corinthians 3:1-4)	
	-		
	-		
	Paul says, "you weren't ready for anythin receive it because of their fleshly nature because they continued to grab at who look more important. They were content way they wanted it to go. The flesh is in a	In modern terms, they weren't ready at made them feel good or made them when life was going well, exactly the	
	Write out Galatians 5:17.		
	-		
	Paul tells us, the desires of our flesh are codesires of the of the Spirit are against the nature always seeking to do evil, oppositive are always battling, often keeping ute do. We must let the Holy Spirit guide of	e flesh. The flesh is, of course, our sinful te of the Spirit's desires. In a believer, the	

sinful nature craves.

Write out Colossians 3:5, Galatians 5:24, and	Note Taking Section			
Romans 8:13.				
The Word tells us we can put our sinful nature to death, essentially crucifying the flesh. But what does that mean? These verses explain it as fleeing from sexual				
promiscuity, selfish desires, lust, evil, impurity, greed, and doing whatever you feel like when you feel like it! It sounds hard because it is. We can't put to death our sinful nature without the power of the Holy Spirit.				
Ask Yourself: What area do I need the Holy Spirit's power to help me overcome my sinful nature?				
The Relational Dimension				
As believers, many of us also struggle with the remains of the old fleshly principle that tempts us to live independent from God as we read in Galatians 5:17.				
Man in the fleshly state is weak, and yet God provides the strength we need to overcome our fleshly weakness by His Spirit.				
Answering the Hard Questions				
Why don't we grow? The truth is as believers we all still sin. Wouldn't you agree? It leads us to the next question, "What is wrong?" It is apparent the control of the				
Spirit does not happen automatically. As we saw in the verses above, Paul tells believers they cannot live the full life Christ has for them if they continue to obey				
their flesh (their sinful nature). Given Paul's instructions to believers, it appears as believers we have the freedom to choose whether we will follow our sinful nature				
or live by the Spirit. Living by the Spirit is the only way to be truly free, but to do so we must make the choice to do so.				

Note Taking Section	The Flesh as Relational Resistance			
	The word the apostle Paul Lis the Greek word sarx. In the language, the word means flesh, as in the body of a hubut also the human nature nature of humans apart from uses sarx in an implication of nature of flesh and spirit. In the flesh relies on human independents. On hand, living by the Spirit is four dependence on God, which is submission to His rule and please in the Spirit-filled life God want full life He has made provision the death and resurrection of As the Word explains, trusting may seem to lead to the go only leads to death. The Flesh has multiple layers ("walking according to the ("desires of the flesh"), and	e original not only the man or animal, or sensual m God. Paul of the dualistic other words, dependence the other bunded on which requires lan. God requires lues, systems, n position, dulge oneself. Is rebellion from some for though of Jesus Christ. It is relational flesh"), internal	in our desire of God. Interna fulfill ourselve relates to the words, and of C.S. Lewis extime you malt the central path that chooses different from taking your lift innumerable you are slowleither into a la hellish creature one that is in harm other creature one that is in with God, and with itsel of creature is peace and key to be the oth idiocy, rage, loneliness. Ear	polains it thusly, " Every ke a choice you are turning art of you, the part of you, into something a little in what it was before. And if e as a whole, with all your choices, all your life long y turning this central thing neavenly creature or into liture: either into a creature mony with God, and with its either into a creature mony with God, and with its fellow creatures, f period to be the one kind heaven: that is, joy and mowledge and power period are means madness, horror, impotence, and internal ch of us and each moment is to the one state or the other."
		Fres	h	
	Relational "Walking according to the flesh"	Interr "Desires of t		Relational "Deeds of the Flesh"
	Habitu	ation	Habitu	ation
	(
	Because we would rather be god than to trust God	We desire ourselves from G	apart	We sin in our word and deed.

Note Taking Section **Answering the Hard Questions** Why is it so hard? We are deeply habituated to find life elsewhere, basically, we are distracted. Even when we come to God, whether through Scripture, Prayer, or His people, we still carry our idols with us, essentially, we are defended. Our idolatry/resistance has served us well and it requires death to bring new life, in other words, we don't want to die. So what do we do now? The most important moves we can make are to: Cultivate a posture of receptivity to the Spirit's presence and meaning. • Give up on (i.e. die to) our attempts to find presence and meaning apart from the Spirit. The discipline of confession and repentance, understood as acknowledging specific ways we idolatrously resist the spirit and turning to the spirits resources in place of the very ways we tend to idolatrously resist is crucial. The Flesh as Relational Resistance Write out Ezekiel 36:26-27. God promises a new heart, a new spirit to believers. God's Spirit allows us to live in a way that is God-willed. As His people, we have the power to live a Spirit-filled life, in obedience to God, and receive His favor and blessing.

 - Write out Jeremiah 31:31 and J -	OIII 14.10-17.
 -	
 -	
 -	
 _	Holy Spirit
 These verses further confirm what was prophesied in Ezekiel. The prophecy is fulfilled in the new covenant, ushered in with Jesus death and resurrection. As	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
 believers in Jesus, God's Word is written in our hearts as His people. Equally significant is the Holy Spirit living within us and guiding us in all 	"I"/WILL Fleshly Resistance
 _ truth. -	"I Would Rather Be God"
	od is a being of unlimited intelligence, po need and has committed to love and c

Relational Transformation Look up the following verses. What do you learn about the relational	Note Taking Section
transformation which comes through life in Christ and soul care? Philippians 4:11-13	
2 Timothy 4:16-17	
2 Corinthians 12:9-10	
2 Community 12.7-10	
2 Timothy 2:1	

Note Taking Section	_
	"Abiding is weakness trusting itself to be kept – it is the unfaithful one casting self on the One who is altogether trustworthy and true. Abiding in Him is not a work we have to do as the condition for enjoying
	His salvation. It is a consenting to let Him do all for us, in us, and through us. It is a work He does for us: the fruit and the power of His redeeming love. Our part is simply to yield, to trust, and to wait for what He has engaged to perform. It was Jesus who drew you when He spoke the Word 'Come' (Matthew 11:28), so it was Jesus who keeps you when He said 'Abide' (John 15:4)."
	- (Murray, Abide in Christ) - - - -

	Note Taking Section
JOURNAL – What areas do you see the need for spiritual formation in your life in order to experience the good life	
the Lord wants for you?	



WEEK 14 DARKNIGHT OF THE SOUL

WEEK 1 Dark Night of the Soul

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

... Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

Overview

There are two ways to experience God. Consolation is the act of providing comfort to an individual. Desolation is the state of isolation, solitude, and loneliness. The Apostle Paul, in the verses above, does not often talk about times of experiencing God through "consolation" because consolation does not bring transformation. Consolation does not expose what is happening in the depths of our soul. What Paul does want to discuss are times of desolation.

Paul is relating his story and the way God used desolation to transform him and to keep him humble in light of the many visions/revelations given to him by God. The method of transformation is simply described as a "thorn in the flesh." Though many have ventured an opinion, God's Word does not tell us what "the thorn" was – trouble, temptation, or tribulation.

God's love for us is great, so great burdens are often placed in our lives to keep us from or cure us of spiritual pride. Paul describes his "thorn in the flesh" as a "messenger of Satan sent for evil" but God turned it for good. Paul prayed for the Lord to remove it from him. It is a lesson for all of us, difficulties are meant to teach us to pray. God hears our prayers, but doesn't always grant our requests. Whether He answers yes, no, or wait, His response is often denied out of His great love for us.

In those instances which He does not remove our troubles, temptations, or tribulation, He gives the grace we need to get through. His grace is designed not only to teach us, but to strengthen and comfort us regardless of the circumstances. Paul explains, "God's strength is made perfect in our weakness" though we are weak, we are strong in God's grace as He supplies all we need.

Main Focus

Last week, we delved into spiritual formation and the ways soul care brings us closer to God, trusting in Him and abiding in Him so we can enjoy the full life He desires for us. Spiritual formation is the transformation of our human spirit by the Holy Spirit. The dark night of the soul is among the stages and seasons of spiritual development in which we come to rely fully on God, His grace and His strength in our lives.

WEEK 1 Dark Night of the Soul

Taking the Lead Share with your group the ways desolation has impacted your life and your relationship with the LORD.	 Do you have tips on facing trouble, tribulation, and trials in life? Share ways you have learned to trust God in times of desolation How has your understanding of consolation and desolation helped you mature in Christ? Share the lessons you've learned (how you grew in your relationship with Christ) during "dark nights." How has learning to trust God fully helped you help others. Share specific examples of your spiritual maturity and
	how the lessons you have learned have helped you.
 Take-Aways Explain the beginnir rather than desolati	ng stages of loving God and how it relates to consolation on.
 Explore the sins of the to self rather than G	ne beginner – how we often credit early changes in ourselve od (Holy Spirit).
	k nights allow us to grow in our love for God, specifically how d for God's sake rather than for all He has done for us.
 will never leave us. 1	n God is always present and always keeps His promises and They will also come to see the difference between spiritual aturity as we compare consolation and desolation.
 gifts to us in order to	esolation are less about actions and more about God's achieve His purposes in our lives. Through this week, in the purpose of consolation and the significance of the gif
consolation andPray for them to "dark nights."Pray each partic desolation.	pen participants' hearts and minds to the purpose of the gift of desolation. experience spiritual maturity as they trust God through the sipant grows as to love God more deeply in the times of the Holy Spirit to meet them there and radically change the of the Father.

Participants Section

"I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one." I (John 2:12-14).

Over these past months we have learned a great deal about our freedom in Christ. We have experienced God's great love for us in numerous ways. We have learned to trust Him and grown in our love for Him. We have discovered the ways soul care and spiritual formation allow us to abide in Him and experience the rich, full life He has for us.

This week we will consider stages and seasons of spiritual development and how God uses the dark times for His purposes – to grow us to maturity in Christ and to love Him more. The Dark Night of the Soul is not a new idea. In fact, it has been studied for centuries. Among the first to study the subject was St. Bernard of Clairvaux, one of the most influential clergy of 12th century, followed by St. John of the Cross, reformer and doctor of the church, in the 16th century, who wrote much on the subject. Here, we will explore the purpose of consolation and desolation are less about actions and more about God's gifts to achieve His purposes in our lives.

Note Taking Section

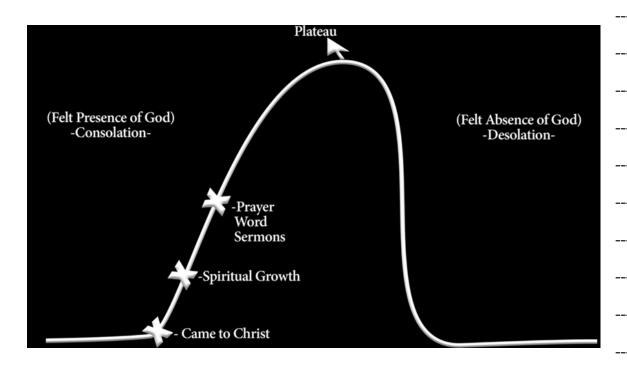
WEEK 1 Dark Night of the Soul

Note Taking Section		
	Stages and Seasons of	Spiritual Development
	1. Beginner: Love of God for Pleasure's Sake As believers, we are God's children. Our sins are forgiven and we know the Father. This stage of spiritual development is characterized by spiritual pleasure. As a mother gives milk to her children, God feeds us while we are in our love of pleasure. God gives us as believers the "bottle of spiritual pleasure" without any labor on our part. There is a new affection at our core in which The Holy Spirit dwells. Others may not be able to see the change in us at the beginning except as it manifests in our excitement. Our souls are moved to "spiritual things" due to the "consolation" of pleasure we get from them. These "spiritual things" are sought for their pleasure and not for God's glory alone. It is in this state that some of our spiritual strength begins.	2. Sins of the Beginner Our spiritual "change" deludes us to think our changes are self-made, we mistakenly believe our energy and fortitude brought the consolation of God. In fact, the structure of our desires and capacities are similar to our preconverted days – while we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, much of our character is still filled with the flesh. The only difference is the Spirit giving pleasure without which we would not go on in the first place and we have a new affection at the core. Our appetite for pleasure has as its goal to feel good in our spirituality. 3. The Dark Night God is growing us during these times to love God for God's sake. Our true self and our hidden heart is revealed here. Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Peter, and many others faced the dark night of the soul in their lives.
	Write out 1 John 2:13-14.	

The following illustration demonstrates the stages and seasons of spiritual development.

THINK ABOUT IT

What is happening during the time of desolation? We experience "desolation" at times (not all the time) when we are more character logically mature than when we were a beginner. Ancient theologians believed spiritual feeling do not necessarily or always correlate with maturity. They also believed feelings of "consolation" and "desolation" are less the result of our actions and more the gifts of God according to His purposes.



sk Yourself:	How should we understand these times in light of New Covenant Truths?	

Note Taking Section

WEEK Dark Night of the Soul

Note Taking Section	1. God is Always Present "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35,37-39. Write out 2 Peter 1:4.
	Write out 1 Corinthians 6:17.
	Write out Colossians 1:27.

2. God Will Never Leave Us of	or Forsake Us	Note Taking Section
Write out Romans 8:35, 37-39.		
Wile ork are one of a constant		
What more do we learn about God in these verses? God is always with us. God will never leave us or forsake us. God is everywhere. Though we know He never leaves us, most believers have felt what they deem as God's	we know He never leaves us, most believers have felt what they deem as God's absence in their lives. Yet for those who know Him best, we know God may actually be more present in His absence than when we feel His presence.	
absence in their lives. Yet for those who know Him best, we know God may actually be more present in His absence than when we feel His presence. God will never leave us or	"God who is everywhere never leaves us. Yet He seems sometimes to be absent. If we don't know Him well, we do not realize that He may be more	
forsake us. God is everywhere. Though Write out Psalm 23:4.	present to us when He is absent than when He is present" – Thomas Merton	
Write out Psalm 34:18		

WEEK 1 Dark Night of the Soul

Note Taking Section	The Purpose of Consolation	
	The purpose of consolation is to give us as believers a taste of the presence of God even before our character development which is designed to direct our heart toward Him. Character development comes in the form of prayer, reading and studying the Word, fellowship, service, and more. It is what the psalmist describes in Psalm 34:8, "taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes	refuge in him" and in Psalm 119:103, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" As we experience our season on consolation, we can give ourselves over to the spiritual disciplines of the Word, prayer, fellowship, services, etc. as God's consoling love is reinforced in these behaviors.
	The Gift of Desolation	
	Times of desolation reveal what is truly in our hearts, what is really going on inside. Times of desolation allow us to see ourselves as we are – to see the hidden parts of our hearts which have yet to be yielded to God – to see the places we continue to cling to our idols – to see areas where we want to be God ourselves. The desolation – the Write out Deuteronomy 8:2-3	dark nights of the soul – are significant and meaningful in our spiritual journey. It marks the point in time in which God thinks you are ready to see the truth about yourself – what is truly in your heart. He withdraws the bottle of spiritual consolation so you can clearly see your need and to make you hungry for Him.

The Israelites had wande in the wilderness waiting Land of Promise. As God their limits were pushed of tested as they grew in the with God. They faced had hunger and God answerfeeding them with mann would understand God's their need to obey His coand follow Him wholehed experienced God's disciplearned much, specifical discipline comes from His love for us. Write out Psalm 42	to enter the led them, and they were eir relationship ardships and red prayers as they sprovision and ammandments artedly. They pline and lly how God's soutrageous	During the times of desolation, Bible reading, sermons, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines often lose their pleasure dimension. Even ministry may lose its zest. The sense of our own good character no longer satisfies – we are left experiencing the parts of ourselves filled with the flesh and selfishness and not the Spirit. Desolation is a gift in which we experience the truth of ourselves but more importantly we become hungry for God in new ways.	Note Taking Section
ACK TOTIFCETT	, ,	ced this kind of longing for God? If is the final outcome?	

WEEK 1 Dark Night of the Soul

Note Taking Section	
	God Is Not Withdrawing During the dark night of the soul, God is not withdrawing from you. He is, in fact, withdrawing the feeling of consolation. In this time, God is drawing near to us to speak truth to us. His desire is to take us to new places of need and dependence on Him. During this time, your vices, which are kept hidden from your heart, are on display – center stage. God can handle us, but we often cannot handle ourselves. In times of desolation, our true character is revealed because our will is at a great low.
	 Signs of Being in The Dark Night It is difficult to stay focused on spiritual disciplines. You have no desire to perform spiritual disciplines (often because they make you feel guilty). Spiritual things cause you to feel anxious and nervous. You wonder if you are backsliding. You think a new place or environment will make you feel better. Things "feel" different. You yearn for how you used to "feel." You believe the issue is everyone else's not yours.
	Temptations While in The Dark Night
	 Feeling Guilty - "I should be making my spiritual life work." (Spiritual Pride) Working Harder - "I need to get back that loving feeling." (Spiritual Gluttony) Worrying/Despairing - "I'm doing all the spiritual disciplines so where is the payoff?"
	 Ask Yourself: "God, what are you doing?" "How can I cooperate with You?" "God, what are trying to show me?"
	 Pray: God, open my eyes to see what you are doing, what you are showing me, and how I can cooperate.

What to Do During the Dark I Do not become silent. Do not stop talkin Lament. If you find you are at a loss for v	Note Taking Section	
Write Out Psalm 39.		
During this time spiritual disciplines have a completely different purpose. Their purpose is not encouragement, but rather to act as a mirror. Allow	Those who are leaders should avoid ministries of consolation. Our job is to help people discover what the Holy Spirit is doing in them and allow them	
yourself to be open to the mirror. Let the mirror go inside and magnify your own life.	to go on this journey. Be faithful to continue in the spiritual	
Deal with the temptation to fix yourself after all the point of the dark night is to	disciplines. Allow the Lord to meet you in those places. Meet with a Spiritual Director if you need guidance.	
show us we cannot fix ourselves, only God can.	Remember the dark night, the time of desolation, is all about love. God's	
Avoid the temptation to generate consolation. The answer is not to try to pray harder or longer but to tell God how you feel.	Holy Spirit is inviting us into love, but it requires a journey through our hidden heart. During our journey, we sink into the truth of ourselves with Holy Spirit	
,	and Cod's love moets us in these	

places.

WEEK Dark Night of the Soul

Note Taking Section	
	JOURNAL – Record your time in the dark night and how God's love manifested in your life during your time of desolation.
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	Note Taking Section
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WEEK 15 LIFE AFTER LIFE

WEEK 15 Life after LIFE

Leader's Guide

Scripture for the Week

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

(Ephesians 1:19-20)

Overview

This week will be very rewarding for you as a leader. You will get to see how the Lord has used you to bring freedom and wholeness to your group. Your participants will want to share what they have experienced at the Be Free, so dedicate the first part of this meeting to doing just that.

Main Focus

Discuss the Retreat. When you are finished, remind them they can refer back to these pages to stay spiritually focused.

Taking the Lead

If someone in your group struggles with abuse, make them a copy of the letter, Out of Darkness, on the following page.

Discussion Points

- What has been the most powerful truth that you have learned in Be Free group this semester? Discuss ways to help participants remember these truths.
- What did the Lord do for you at the retreat?
 Discuss ways to maintain the ground that was gained and also advance into new territory as believers.

Take-Aways

Some of your participants may want to attend a Be Free group again next semester, and some may even want to help lead one! Encourage them in this. Share your testimony of the rewards of leadership in Be Free. Identify potential leaders in your group, and talk to them about leading with you next semester. of desolation.

WEEK 15 Life after LIFE

In this fallen world, we face the harsh reality of dark things: abuse (sexual, physical, emotional, verbal, and spiritual), violence, and betrayals. Though these things create deep, serious wounds, healing is possible; freedom is possible, and it is for you because God is good and gracious. His heart's desire is for you to be completely whole, alive, and new in every way, and He wants to see this restoration happen even more than you do.

The path you are on, the one that led you to Be Free, is part of your healing. This season is part of the greater work the Lord wants to do in your life. By committing to this study, you're growing closer to the One whose Name is Healer, and in turn, He will bring you into a new place of healing and restoration.

Go after God, respect the process, and allow Be Free to be a piece of your healing journey. But also understand this - sometimes the Lord heals deep wounds, particularly childhood wounds or sexual abuse wounds, in the context of counseling, community, prayer, and time. But the Lord does heal. Wherever you are on the journey, keep pressing in to the Father, and let Him show you the path He has for you. There is no recipe for instant results, but through a trust filled relationship with Jesus, there is incredible hope for healing authentically.

If this study brings up things you'd rather not remember, don't let the enemy tell you to "just forget it and move on." It requires immense courage to look into deep wounds and not turn away. It requires strength of character to reach

out for counseling and to trusted friends. You see, the enemy wants to keep you shrouded in shame and anxiety, thinking, "What if people find out," or "I do not deserve good things," or even "It's partially my fault." Please know as a victim of abuse, it's never your fault. Choose to believe what Jesus says about you instead of the lies of the enemy; the Holy Spirit will help you. The Lord has plans for your life, and they are to prosper not to harm you, to give you a hope and future (Jeremiah 29:11). Know your leaders care about you; it is one of the reasons why they chose to lead this particular group. So don't hesitate to ask them for resources or a referral to Christian counseling.

No matter what happened in the past, there is good news. You have a choice in regards to how you live today: Will you allow yesterday to dictate today, or will you turn, look at yesterday, and deal with the wounds inflicted?

Will you stick with it if it takes longer than anticipated? Our prayer is you will be brave, courageous, and strong, and you will look at yesterday and ask the Lord prayerfully how He will set you free from it. Because He wants you to be free. In fact, He wants it so desperately He was willing to die so you could experience it. The cross doesn't minimize your circumstances, but it does change the outcome. It represents a power that conquered every sin and even death. There's great hope!

Participants Section

"But I focus on this one thing Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." (Philippians 3:13-14).

Note Taking Section

Stop for a moment and take a look around. You have come a long way. You're the same you, yet somehow, you're not the same at all—you have experienced a taste of true freedom, and it is beautiful. You think, see, and even do things differently than you did several weeks ago. No longer are you so concerned with what's behind you, but rather you can finally look ahead and see the road is stretching out before you in a new kind of life, one marked by hope.

This freedom is indeed an incredible thing, but it is only the beginning. Staying free requires a commitment. And it is a daily one. You may find the enemy poking at old wounds or perhaps there are just some issues and experiences lingering; we have three words for you: Do not despair. You are equipped to face any foe and your freedom is more important to God than it is to you. Community and counseling, both rooted in the Word, are incredible tools to help you along this new road. Decide today to continue the journey, and as you press on, you will surely find God has many incredible things in store for you.

WEEK Life after LIFE

Note Taking Section	Focus on the Prize	
	Choose to rearrange your thinking to line up with the Word of God and don't try to make Scripture line up with your thinking. 2. Put on the Whole Armor of God. "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11). Memorize Ephesians 6:10-18 and daily put on each piece of its protective armor. 3. Become a worshipper. "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6). Allow the power of worship to keep	 5. Maintain a daily "Never stop praying Thessalonians 5:17). Continual prayer is sin God and listening for 6. Change old hal "Throw off your old e your former way of li rotten through and the lust and deception. In must be a spiritual rethoughts and attitud display a new nature are a new person, collikeness—righteous, he (Ephesians 4:22-24). Make the decision who you something in your you back from His best to Him. 7. Submit to the Lorenteense
	even if, in the natural, it seems	those in authority. "Everyone must substantial authorities. For all authorities. For all authority have been by God. So anyone against authority is rwhat God has institutional be punished. (Red Obedience is what we bodies, but submission with our hearts. God what not just obedience.

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evil nature and life, which is through, full of Instead, there enewal of your des. You must re because you created in God's holy, and true."

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mit to governing uthority comes e in positions of n placed there who rebels rebelling against uted, and they omans 13:1). ve do with our on is how we feel wants submission,

8. Get an accountability partner. "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results." (James 5:16).

We all need at least one person who knows all of our secrets and still loves us, is committed to praying for us regularly, and will constantly reflect Jesus to us.

9. Develop right relationships. "Don't team up with those who are

unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14).

One of our main missions on this earth is to reach the lost, however, our spouse, our closest friends, and our mentors, must be like-minded believers.

10. Clean your house.

"So get started. Purify the people.
Tell them: Get ready for tomorrow by purifying yourselves. For this is what GOD, the God of Israel, says: There are cursed things in the camp. You won't be able to face your enemies until you have gotten rid of these cursed things." (Joshua 7:13).

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything in your home or workplace which does not reflect your new life in Christ Jesus.

11 Resist the enemy.

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7).

We must be alert to the schemes of the enemy and resist his attacks to invade our lives. Close all open doors.

12. Always remain kingdomfocused.

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom." (2 Timothy 4:18).

Always remember we are ambassadors of heaven sent to reproduce heaven here on earth. This world is not our home.

WEEK 15 Life after LIFE

Note Taking Section	
	"It is for freedom that
	Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and
	do not let yourselves be burdened again by a
	yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1, NIV).

Journal: What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?	Note Taking Section



APPENDIX

Appendix

Set Apart — Preparing for the Retreat

This semester, you have spent many hours studying scriptures and applying them to your life. No doubt there has been at least one time when the Word of God said something different than what you had previously believed. It challenged you to let go of old thinking patterns and embrace a new truth. Spiritual growth may not always be easy, but the results of this growth are always good!

The Be Free Retreat is the culmination of all you have studied, and you do not want to miss it. The weekly teachings have been strategic to prepare you to have a powerful encounter with God. Here are three ways to prepare your heart to receive everything the Holy Spirit has for you.

Be expectant.

In your prayer time, confess to the Lord you believe He can do anything. Allow the Lord to fill you with hope - this is the season for miracles in your life.

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).

Maintain an attitude of worship and praise.

Set aside time each day leading up to the retreat to worship the Lord. Whatever your comfort level may be, allow yourself to go one step deeper in the waters of worship.

Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker. (Psalm 95:6).

Shut out the world.

In the days leading up to the retreat, limit your exposure to secular activities such as television, newspapers, social media, etc. Use this time to spend in prayer and reading the Bible. The media/social fast will allow your spirit to become sensitive to the voice of God. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. (James 4:8).

Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you. And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. (Isaiah 35:4-6).

Note Taking Section		
	Freedom Song — Scriptures	for Living in Freedom
	The secret to staying free lies within the Word. The scriptures are living and active, and they will show you how to live in the Tree of Life every single day as they strengthen your spirit. In dark times, the Word will illuminate your path; in trials, the Word will bring you peace. It will help you separate soul from spirit and reveal to you the purpose behind your unique passions and talents.	Ask the Lord to inscribe these truths on your heart, and they will become a part of you and all you do. No longer will old ways govern your decisions; instead, you will be transformed into a new creation radiating the hope of heaven in joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Your life will be a love song in a lost and lonely world, echoing an anthem of great hope, redemption, and freedom.
	How to Fight for Freedom	
	It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. (2 Samuel 22:33). "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah	I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20).
	4:6). For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6).	It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1).
	For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14).	Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24).
	Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which	Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13).
	comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:8).

When You Struggle with Authority

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1).

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17).

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority. (1 Peter 2:13).

God is with You

The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14).

God is our refuge and strength, an everpresent help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1).

But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you when you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west." (Isaiah 43:1-2, 5).

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5).

Note Taking Section

When You Struggle with Pride or Surrender

Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:38).

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39).

Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:4).

For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matthew 23:12).

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20).

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3).

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:5-6).

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. (James 3:16).

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Note Taking Section	When Anger Arises	
	Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. (Psalm 4:4).	And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7).
	A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. (Proverbs 14:16).	For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:12).
	A patient man has great understanding, but a quick tempered man displays folly. (Proverbs 14:29).	Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10).
	A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control. (Proverbs 29:11)	How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. (Psalm 119:9).
	Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. (Psalm 37:8).	Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. (Proverbs 4:23).
	The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. (Psalm 145: 8-9).	Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Matthew 5:8).
	When You Struggle with Purity	y
	Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2).	Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8).
	We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5).	How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Hebrews 9:14).
	Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and	Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having

spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence

for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1).

our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a

guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22).

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When You Feel Rejected

Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me. (Psalm 27:10).

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14).

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant. I have chosen you and have not rejected you.' " (Isaiah 41:9).

"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. (Isaiah 54:17).

If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37).

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17).

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10).

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. (Ephesians 1:4).

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36).

Note Taking Section

When You Feel Ashamed

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean. (Psalm 32:1).

He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalms 103:10).

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12).

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (John 15:3).

For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace,

which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Ephesians 1:4-7).

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:12).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9).

If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1).

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Note Taking Section	When You Face Temptation	
	I will set before my eyes no vile thing. (Psalm 101:3).	of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
	Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. (Matthew 26:41).	made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ an seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Chris Jesus. (Ephesians 2:2-6).
	Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (Romans 13:14).	Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22).
	No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13).	For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior,
	But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:27).	Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14).
	All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because	
	When You Have Been Wrong	ged
	Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7).	so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. (Mark 11:24-26).
	Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends. (Proverbs 17:9).	Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:17-18).
	But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:44).	Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32).
	For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.	See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause

trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:15).

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult,

but with blessing, because to this you were

called so that you may inherit a blessing. (1

Peter 3:9).

(Matthew 6:14).

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in

prayer, believe that you have received it, and

it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if

you hold anything against anyone, forgive him,

When You Feel Condemned

They looked to Him and were radiant; their faces were not ashamed. (Psalm 34:5).

Do not be afraid, you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated; you will forget the shame of your youth. (Isaiah 54:4).

Instead of your shame you shall have double honor. (Isaiah 61:7).

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. (John 3:17).

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, He straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw. a stone at her . . ." Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:7, 10-11).

When he [Satan] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44).

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1).

For the accuser of our brothers (Satan), who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (Revelation 12:10).

Note Taking Section

When Your Heart Is Broken

I am the Lord, who heals you. (Exodus 15:26).

He is near to those who have a broken heart and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18-19).

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3).

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1-3).

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ...For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35, 38-39).

Note Taking Section	Moving Past the Past
	"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19).
	"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
	But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14).
	When You Have Money Issu
	The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. (Deuteronomy 28:12).
	Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for every-thing in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. (1 Chronicles 29:11).
	If your wealth increases, don't make it the center of your life. (Psalm 62:10).
	In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your
	hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end. (Psalm 102:25-27).
	Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money; it robs them of life. (Proverbs 1:19). He who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. (Proverbs 11:18).
	Greed brings grief to the whole family. (Proverbs 15:27).

When You Need Peace

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27).

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7).

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Whoever loves money never has money

enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his in-come. This too is meaningless. (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure. (Isaiah 33:6).

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17).

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:10-12).

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21).

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24).

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If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him. (Matthew 7:11).

The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be Yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" (Luke 4:5-8).

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:36-38).

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. (Luke 12:33).

So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (Luke 16:11).

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:15).

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compul sion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.

A man reaps what he sows. (Galatians 6:7).

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:11-13).

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19).

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5).

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. (1 Timothy 6:6).

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:10).

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. (1 Timothy 6:17).

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:18-22).

Note Taking Section	
	When You Feel Afraid
	Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. (Exodus 14:13)
	The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (Deuteronomy 31:8).
	Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9).
	Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4).
	Though an army besieges me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. (Psalm 27:3).
	For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in his dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:5).
	You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7).
	I sought the Lord, and he answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. (Psalm 34:4).
	When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Psalm 56:3-5).

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous

fall. (Psalm 55:22).

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2).

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name." (Psalm 91:14).

No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:10-12).

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6).

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid. (Proverbs 18:10).

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10).

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. (Isaiah 43:2).

Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one. (Isaiah 44:8).

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (Matthew 7:25).

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15).

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7).

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18).

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him." (Lamentations 3:21-24).

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20).

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." (John 11:40-44).

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. (Ephesians 3:17-18).

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

Note Taking Section		
	When You Face Trials	
	Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10).	I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18).
	For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5). My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, For His anger is but for a moment, His favor My brethren, count it all joy who into various trials, knowing that of your faith produces patience patience have its perfect work may be perfect and complete	My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing
		patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-3).
	downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. (Psalm 42:3,5).	Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. (Psalm 51:12).
	Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. (Psalm 126:5).	
	Reasons to Rejoice	
	You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11).	Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).
	This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24).	Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice! (Philippians 4:4).
	For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12).	Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (Luke 15:10).
	These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11).	

The Armor of God

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:11-19).

Use this prayer as an outline to help you prepare for each day. First, put on the Armor of God, and then ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, guide your steps, and help you stand and fight against the enemy.

Put on the Armor of God The Helmet of Salvation Thank you, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from you and I declare nothing can separate me now from the love of Christ and the place I shall ever have in your kingdom.

The Breastplate of Righteousness And yes, Lord, I wear your righteous-ness today against all condemnation and corruption. Fit me with you holiness and purity—defend me from all assaults against my heart.

The Belt of Truth Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Show me the truths I so desperately need today. Expose the lies I am not even aware I believe.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace I do choose to live for the gospel at any moment. Show me where you are working and lead me to it. Do not let me become slack in my walk.

The Shield of Faith Jesus, I lift the confidence that you are good against every lie and every assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can over-come me because you are with me.

The Sword of the Spirit Holy Spirit, show me specifically today the truths of the Word of God I will need to counter the snares of the enemy. Bring them to mind throughout the day.

Connect with God And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything—in all prayer as my spirit communes with you throughout the day.

Note Taking Section	
Who I Am in Ch	nrist
John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20	_
1 Corinthians 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body.
Ephosians 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Ephesians 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
Colossians 1:14	I have been forgiven of all my sins.
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ.
	Tam complete in Chilst.
I Am Safe	
	Long trace forever from condensation
Romans 8:1-2	I am free forever from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Romans 8:31-34	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Romans 8:35-39	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
Philippians 1:6	I am confident the good work God has begun in me will be completed.
Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of Heaven.
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and of self-control.
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need.
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.
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Note Taking Section I Am Important Matthew 5:13-14 I am the salt and light of the earth. John 15:1, 5 I am a branch of the true Vine, a channel of His life. I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. John 15:16 Acts 1:8 I am a personal witness of Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple. Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship. Ephesians 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13



ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

Week 2

Separation and the First Sin

Read Genesis 3:1-8 and notice who is doing what. In verses 7 & 8, what did Adam & Eve do? The Bible says Adam and Eve sinned. Their eyes were opened, they covered up, and they hid.

Read Genesis 3:9. What did God do? God called to the man, "Where are you?" God came looking for them.

Read James 4:8 and 2 Chronicles 15:2. What do these passages teach us about our relationship with God? As far as God is concerned, nothing can separate us from His love. If we seek Him, we will find Him. If we walk with Him and draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.

Four truths about the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

According to Colossians 2:3, what do we find hidden in Jesus? In Him lie all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Read Genesis 3:22-24. Why were Adam and Eve driven from the Garden of Eden? So they would not eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

From Romans 8:38-39, name all the things that cannot separate us from the love of God.

Death, life angels, demons, fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, the power of hell, height, depth, and created things.

How did God respond to Solomon's request? The Lord was pleased with Solomon's reply and was glad he had asked for wisdom. So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and have not asked for a long life or riches for yourself or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding mind such as no one else has ever had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for – riches and honor! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!"

Read James 1:13-15. What is the progression of sin? Temptation leads to sin which leads to death.

Read Psalm 103:11-13 and 1 John 1:9. When are we to have shame and why? Never. Because if we fear Him and confess our sin, He removes our sin completely from us!

WEEK Answer Key

Note Taking Section	Week 3 According to Colossians 2:3, what do we find hidden in Jesus? In Him lie all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
	Read Genesis 3:22-24. Why were Adam and Eve driven from the Garden of Eden? So they would not eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.
	From Romans 8:38-39, name all the things that cannot separate us from the love of God. Death, life angels, demons, fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, the power of hell, height, depth, and created things. How did God respond to Solomon's request? The Lord was pleased with Solomon's reply and was glad he
	had asked for wisdom. So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and have not asked for a long life or riches for yourself or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise
	and understanding mind such as no one else has ever had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for – riches and honor! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!"
	Read James 1:13-15. What is the progression of sin? Temptation leads to sin which leads to death.
	Read Psalm 103:11-13 and 1 John 1:9. When are we to have shame and why? Never. Because if we fear Him and confess our sin, He removes our sin completely from us!

Week 4

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14, and write why the world cannot accept the things that come from God. Because the things that come from God, come from the Spirit of God, and the world cannot understand because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Read Psalm 139:13-18. What does verse 14 say about you? I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12, and fill in the blanks. Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be master by anything.

Read Galatians 5:19-21, and list the works of the soul-led nature. When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

According to Galatians 6:8, what is the result of living a life that gratifies the body? Those who live only to satisfy their own desires will harvest the consequences of decay and death.

Week 6

Read the following verses, and write down what Jesus says we must be willing to let go of to be His disciples.

- Luke 14:33 Our things
- Luke 14:26 Our family week 7
 Read Matthew 18:21-35. What are
 the Kingdom Principles that Jesus
 is trying to convey?

Look up the following verses. What is the result of giving things and money the place of priority in our lives?

- Matthew 13:22 The Word becomes unfruitful.
- Revelation 3:17 We become wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, and don't know it.
- 1 Timothy 6:9-10 Fall into temptation, become overtaken destruction, and even walk awa from the faith.

Week 7

Read Matthew 18:21-35. What are the Kingdom Principles that Jesus is trying to convey? To have mercy on our fellow man, just as the Lord has had for us.

Week 8

Look up the following verses. When is it a good idea to just say nothing?

- Proverbs 11:13 When keeping a secret.
- Proverbs 13:3 –To preserve our life.
- Proverbs 17:1–To avoid strife.
- Proverbs 17:9-To cover someone else's sin.
- Proverbs 17:14 –To avoid a quarrel.
- Proverbs 17:27-28 –To be considered wise and prudent.
- Philippians 2:14-15 –To avoid complaining.
- 1 Peter 3:1-2 When your pure and godly life can speak for itself.

Week 9

Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9, and make a list of the actions we are to take in regards to God's commandments: Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.

Read Psalm 119:97-100, and list the benefits of meditating on God's Word. They will make me wiser than my enemies. I will have more insight than my teachers. I will be wiser than my elders.

Read James 1:22. According to this verse how can we deceive ourselves? If we are hearers of the Word and not doers of the Word.

Week 10

Three Things to Know

- 1. Demons are fallen angels.
- 2. Demons want to devour believers.
- 3. Demons respond to a well-equipped believer and the authority of God.

Authority

- 1. The highest authority God.
- 2. The authority of Jesus.
- 3. The authority of God's Word.

Three Daily Steps

- 1. Submit yourself to God.
- 2. Close any doors of opportunity the enemy can exploit (anger, fear, etc.).
- 3. Confront your fears.

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WEEK Answer Key

Note Taking Section	
	Week 11 Often the ideas the enemy attacks us with are so subtle and tailor-made for us we will believe the thoughts are our own. But the Bible says we as believers have the power in us to withstand every temptation of the enemy. Read James 4:7.
	What happens when we choose to resist the devil's temptations? He will flee from you.
	Write out 1 Corinthians 10:13. What will God do for you when the temptations seem unbearable?
	Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What might be missing in a person who struggles with turning from sin? Godly sorrow
	Read Romans 2:4. Name something else that leads us to repentance. The kindness of God
	Week 12 Look up the following verses. What does each say about the fear of the Lord? Proverbs 1:7 –It's the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 8:13 –It's the hatred of evil.
	Proverbs 14:26 –Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a place of refuge for their children.
	Proverbs 14:27 –Fear of the Lord is a lifegiving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death.
	Proverbs 19:23 –Fear of the Lord gives life, security, and protection from harm.

Week 13

Look up the following verses. What do you learn about the relational transformation which comes through life in Christ and soul care?

Philippians 4:11-13 – to be content in all circumstances/situations due to Christ's strength and our relationship with Him

- 2 Timothy 4:16-17 to understand the Lord gives strength and deliverance even when all others abandon us
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 to know God;s grace is sufficient and Christ's power rests on us so that when we are weak, we are strong in Him
- 2 Timothy 2:1 to know we can be strong in the grace afforded us by Christ

Note Taking Section



BEFREE LIVING IN FREEDOM EVERYDAY

the Worship Center

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