

CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER

- What do you think perpetuates the false notion that “I’m ok because I’m in church”? Has being in a LIFEGroup allowed you to be honest about your struggles? Why or why not?

CONNECT WITH THE TEXT—Read John 8:31-36

- Do you think the Jewish people in this text were lying about being in bondage or did they not view their oppression as a problem? When anyone in bondage denies it, what do you think is the root?
- (Verse 34) From your understanding historically, describe a day in the life of a slave. How is that similar to anyone who sins?

CONNECT WITH THE BOTTOM LINE—Read Mark 9:17-24

- What hesitation do you think people have against bringing their struggles with sin to Jesus? How effective is any other solution?
- Have you come to Jesus with a similar offering of belief and unbelief (verse 24)? What did confessing this before God do within you? In your prayer time, encourage those who are struggling with belief and unbelief.

ONE STEP BEYOND

To guard your heart against secret sins or sins that you’ve become comfortable with, we recommend the “Cleansing for Personal Renewal” inventory available for download at CentralLIFE.org under the Life Groups page.

To delve into this subject further, please visit Celebrate Recovery on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm; or to speak with a professional counselor, please email Eric@centralLIFE.org for direction.

PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see him as He is. All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.

1John 3:1-3 (NIV)

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GROUP HOUSEKEEPING—

- This week, please email Lisa@centralLIFE.org with your current roster of those attending your group. Please include with this list their current email addresses. Thanks!
- If you print the handouts for your group, please leave the facilitator's guide off. :)

THIS WEEK'S BOTTOM LINE

Being saved does not guarantee being free from bondage. Only pride can keep you from being free.

IN THE WARMUP

- Discuss the homework from last week. Who used the "2nd Greatest Story Ever Told" to help them tell their story, and would anyone like to share theirs with the group?
- Review the "Passage to Memorize". Set a goal as a group to memorize at least the first verse of the passage this week. This passage remains the same throughout the 5-week series.
- The nature of the subject of being set free could create some very raw moments in the group. Before you begin, reiterate with your group the "what happens in home group, stays in home group" principle as well as the reminder to make no snap judgments or offer quick fixes.

IN THE STUDY

- Be sure you have listened to the teaching either live or online.
- The questions in the "Connect with the Text" portion are designed to confront with any ongoing spiritual bondage by rooting out pride and creating a vivid portrait of the frustration and futility of a life in sin.
- The questions in the "Connect with the Bottom Line" are designed to remove the stigma or shame of confession so that they can find freedom.

IN THE WRAP UP—In your prayer time, allow the group to pray over those who are struggling with bondage by laying hand on them and praying over them one at a time. This is an important element to building community within your group.

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