

Freedom Sunday

Connect Resource

Dates: Sunday 24th November 2024

Purpose of this campaign: For people to understand God's heart to set people free!

Key scripture

Luke 4:18-19 NIV

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Supporting points to key point:

1. PHYSICAL FREEDOM THROUGH RESCUE

Throughout Scripture we see time and time again the people of God in need of physical rescue!

God has very clearly revealed himself to us as OUR DELIVERER!

- *Psalm 18*
- *Psalm 70*
- *Psalm 140*
- *Judges 3*
- *Story of Moses / Exodus*

We see in the New Testament times where God physical delivers and rescues people...

- Acts 12 (Peter escapes prison.)
- Acts 27 (God rescues Paul from shipwreck and a deadly snakebite.)

There are people all around the world still in need of physical deliverance! Rescue from terrible situations of abuse and oppression!

As we bring it closer to home, we see there are other forms of physical slavery that we can find ourselves trapped in too...

- Addictions
- Debts
- Toxic relationships
- Sickness and infirmities

No matter how we find ourselves in these circumstances, either by our own doing or at the hand of others or just circumstance, God wants to rescue us and bring us out of places and things that have ensnared or trapped us.

Disclaimer: this doesn't mean we always escape or avoid 'just' consequences...

2. EMOTIONAL/MENTAL FREEDOM THROUGH RESTORATION

Like the Israelites, we might have left Egypt, but Egypt might not have left us. We can keep carrying the mindsets and belief systems of past bondages.

Like many survivors of modern-day slavery, they can be rescued but still need to go on a journey of restoration. We all need freeing on the inside, as there are countless things we might feel captive to.

2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV

" Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. "

Romans 12:2 NIV

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.

John 8:32 NIV

" Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Galatians 5:1 NIV

" 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. "

3. SPIRITUAL FREEDOM THROUGH REDEMPTION

The deepest level of freedom anyone can experience is the freedom from sin and death. It's this bondage that is the root cause of all the injustices we see in the world today. Not until we see humanity set free from sin will we see the full victory against injustice in the world.

Romans 6:18 NIV

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

John 8:36 NIV

" So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. "

Colossians 1:13-14 NIV

" For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. "

Here are 3 ways we can find freedom, whether it's physical, mental/emotional, or spiritual:

1. Through the persistence of other people

- Like the deliverers mentioned in scripture, people who would advocate and fight for the freedom of an individual or a group.
- For example, IJM help bring physical freedom to those enslaved through the tireless work of advocates and law enforcement officials around the world who fight to rescue people out of slavery and oppression.
- This can also be through the power of intercession.

2. Through our partnership with God's wisdom and ways

- There are some things we have the power to free ourselves from.
- As we begin to walk in alignment with God's ways, we'll discover freedom. Ways like forgiveness, generosity etc.

James 1:22-25 NIV

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

3. Through the power of the Christ

- The blood of Christ has the power to free us at every level.

Connect Questions

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

GATHER:

- What role does the church community/connect group have in helping to facilitate people finding freedom? (For ideas see pages 3 & 4 of these notes under the heading: *Here are 3 ways we can find freedom, whether it's physical, mental/emotional, or spiritual.*)

GROW:

- Are there areas in our own lives that have been highlighted to us by the Holy Spirit where we need to find freedom? If you feel appropriate, discuss with the connect group, or a connect group buddy/friend, and pray about this. Perhaps find a relevant scripture to meditate on that can help bring transformation and freedom in this area.

GO:

- How can we actively be people who are advocating for the freedom of others, physically, emotionally/mentally, and spiritually? (E.g. through prayer/intercession; financial support of social justice organisations; any other suggestions?)

Connect Group Resources:

We wanted to remind you as Connect Group Leaders of our C3 SYD Freedom Ministries that are available.

“Jesus invites us into a life of freedom. He doesn’t just care about our salvation but is interested in our entire life. As people made in the image of God, we are a brain, a body, a heart, a spirit and a soul and He came to set us free in all of these areas so that there is nothing missing and nothing broken.”

The freedom that Jesus offers us in scripture is all about receiving healing in all of the parts that make up who we are.

Many people struggle with physical health, mental health, fear, rejection, shame, condemnation, addictions, trauma or issues triggered by circumstances in families and close relationships.

If you, or any of your connect group, are struggling in any of these areas, Jesus has an answer and is able to set us free so that we can experience the fullness of life.

If prayer for freedom is wanted, please be ready to assist cg members or have people apply to do a freedom ministry with one of the team by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EBQfvtWH7EWsLigsaPOCv5MTaWQnm2BFkYD36lxH7XpUNUdNRkM5QjQ4UTdOQVA5TloyS01WN1hFNyQIQCN0PWcu>