

SERMON AND SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

For the week of October 26 – November 1

Truth □ Freedom

Sermon Text and Outline – John 8:31-36

Introduction – The Illusion of Freedom

I. The Context: Believers and Unbelievers Together (v. 31)

**³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said,
“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.**

II. The Nature and Power of the Truth (v. 32)

³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

III. The Illusion of Freedom (v. 33–34)

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” ³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

IV. The Son Who Frees (v. 35–36)

**³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.
³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

V. The Reformation Rediscovery

VI. The Freedom We Live

Conclusion – A Fortress of Truth and Freedom

Opening Prayer (2 Minutes) – Lord Jesus, You are the Truth who sets us free. Open our hearts and minds as we study Your Word today. Help us to see our slavery to sin, to rejoice in the freedom You give, and to live as Your disciples in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

Getting to Know Me (5 Minutes)

Share one time you realized that what you thought was “freedom” was actually limiting or enslaving.

Into the Word – Read John 8:31-36 (45-60 minutes)

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in this passage, what does the word *had* insinuate? Why include that pivotal word?
2. What does it mean to “hold to my teaching” and be a true disciple of Christ?
3. What connection does Jesus make between knowing the truth and being set free? What do you think that means?
4. How do the people’s objections in verse 33 reveal their misunderstanding of freedom? How do our own misconceptions often mirror theirs?
5. What does Jesus mean when He says, “everyone who sins is a slave to sin”?
6. How does Christ, as the Son, set people free, and why is His unique position essential?
7. How did Martin Luther and the Reformation rediscover the freedom Christ offers, and what does this teach us about Scripture’s authority today?
8. In what practical ways can you abide in Christ’s Word this week to experience the freedom He gives, both spiritually and in daily life?

Closing Prayer (3-8 Minutes) Lord Jesus, thank You for the truth that sets us free. Help us to remain in Your teaching, experience Your freedom, and live in a way that glorifies You. Amen.

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Into the Word – Read John 8:31-36 (45-60 minutes)

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in this passage, what does the word “*had*” insinuate? What important lesson is there for us in that pivotal word?
2. What does it mean to “hold to my teaching” and be a true disciple of Christ?
3. What connection does Jesus make between knowing the truth and being set free? What do you think that means?
4. How do the people’s objections in verse 33 reveal their misunderstanding of freedom? How do our own misconceptions often mirror theirs?
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