

GOD IN SEARCH OF
LEVITICUS

LEVITICUS, WEEK 8
“FEASTING ON FREEDOM”

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: MAR. 21, 2021

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:
LEVITICUS 11; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12 AND 19-20;
GALATIANS 5:1 AND 13

Leviticus 11 contains something that can seem extremely odd and arbitrary to the modern reader. This chapter contains a list of dietary restrictions that God gave to the Israelite people. Why would God care what the Israelites ate or didn't eat? Is God picky? Controlling? And what do ancient dietary laws have to do with us, today?

Pastor Brad shows that these “restrictions” were actually helpful, keeping the people from disease and distinguishing them from the other nations and religions around them. This odd list of dietary restrictions serves as a reminder that when we take God at His Word and trust he has our best interests at heart, we find that his limits to our “freedom” actually lead us into true freedom.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What words, images, songs, or phrases, etc., come to your mind when you hear the word “freedom”?
2. What would be the hardest food or beverage for you to give up, and why?
3. What is a rule your parents had for you as a kid that you found restricting at the time, but now really appreciate (or have even established in your own family)?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Read through the text of Leviticus 11. What stands out to you? What words or phrases are repeated?
2. As you look at the list of dietary restrictions that God gave to the Israelites, why might God have kept the people from eating these particular animals? If it's helpful, do a little Internet research on the animals you haven't heard of or what risks are involved in eating them.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12. How would you summarize this passage in your own words?
4. What message does God give us about our bodies in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20? How are bodies described in this passage? What are we called to do in response?
5. Read Galatians 5:1. How might the message of this passage relate to the story of the Israelites in Leviticus? What do you learn about freedom in Galatians 5:13?

CONTINUED:

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Pastor Brad noted that several of God's dietary restrictions actually helped protect them from disease and other health risks. What are some other things that God asks of us that might seem "restrictive" but are actually for our good?
2. Can you think of any behaviors that people do in the name of freedom that end up mastering them?
3. Where in our culture do you see people treating their bodies as temples and who or what do they view their bodies as temples to? Compare this to what you think it might look like for us to view our bodies as temples to the Holy Spirit. How is it similar or different?
4. How do you see people in our world submit to a yoke of slavery? How does this compare to how God wants us to live?
5. Pastor Brad said "true freedom is NOT to need something" and he talked about the value of restraint. How does this understanding of freedom compare to how much people understand freedom? Can you think of examples of people who are living in the kind of freedom talked about in this passage/sermon? What are their lives like?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Can you think of examples in your own life where something that was seemingly restrictive actually brought you greater freedom? How has this changed your understanding of freedom in your own life?
2. Is there any "freedom" in your own life that is actually mastering you and making you its slave (or has this happened to you in the past)? Has this sermon/these passages encouraged or challenged you to make any changes in your life?
3. How do you view your body? Do you see it as a temple? Are there any thought patterns or habits that you need to change in order to better honor God with your body?
4. How has this passage/message changed how you view God's "restrictions" for humanity?
5. Has this message/these passages challenged your thinking about true freedom in any way?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. If there is an area of your life where you have found yourself enslaved to something other than God, what can you do this week to walk towards true freedom? Make sure to reach out to a friend, family member, or your small group for prayer as you seek to embrace God's freedom in your life.

CONTINUED:

2. If you have been treating your body as something other than a temple of the Holy Spirit, what's one thing that you can do this week to honor God with your body?
3. Do you see God as a God of freedom? If not, spend some time with God this week, listening to see if he has anything to say to you about true freedom.