

**“FREEDOM”****SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER****DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2022****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:****JOHN 7:53-8:11**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For freedom Christ has set us free...” Without any further context, his statement begs the question: free from what? St. Paul answers us within the same verse (Gal. 5:1): “...stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

In this message, we see how Jesus offers us that freedom. But first, he must confront a hostile group of religious leaders while he's teaching at the Temple before a large crowd. Christ's opponents demand he pass sentence on a hapless woman caught in the act of adultery. The indent is full of shame, religious pride, and the unexpected, tender mercies of God. It also highlights the freedom that Christ offers us: a life unencumbered by slavery to sin.

**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 is one movie you could watch over and over without tiring of it?
2. What TV series have you binge-watched, during the course of Covid?
3. How has God made Himself known in your life, over this past week?
4. How have recent insights into God's character encouraged your heart?

**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. What interested you about the setting in which Jesus sat to teach?
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees bring a woman to stand before Jesus?
3. Given the nature of an act of adultery, who did they neglect to bring?
4. What did Jesus do, and what did Jesus say, to the woman's accusers?
5. What surprised you about the response of these religious leaders?
6. How did Jesus both acknowledge this woman's sin and call her to freedom?

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

1. How does this passage speak to the issue of spiritual authority and abuse, subjects that are much in discussion today?
2. How have you seen religious leaders today maintain right doctrine but utterly miss the heart of God? What has been the result?
3. This passage implies that leaders may grow in grace as they age. Is that true of people you know? Why or why not?
4. Assuming they do, how might most people today leave behind a troubled past and pursue a new life? How does this compare to how Jesus calls people to do so?
5. How might Jesus' command “go and leave your life of sin”

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- be viewed by most people today: as positive or negative and why?
6. How might words like Jesus spoke, “neither do I condemn you,” bring release and freedom to people today? What do they need freedom from?

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

1. What type of spiritual authority do you have? How do you use yours?
2. What situations tempt you to make a hard judgment versus offering someone compassion?
3. What evidence is there you have grown more gracious, over the years?
4. Share with your group how Jesus called you out of the old, into the new.
5. How would you describe the change Jesus has brought into your life?
6. What do you do when shameful memories bring a sense of condemnation?

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

7. Speaking truth to oneself is powerful. Remind yourself daily that there is no condemnation for those in Christ. (Romans 8:1)
8. Extending grace to others is also powerful. Speak a word of grace to another, this week, as the Holy Spirit presents opportunity.