

**"A PEOPLE OF FREEDOM"**

SPEAKER: JAMIE LILLEY

DATE: MAY 29, 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:
MATTHEW 16:24-25, GENESIS 1-3, GALATIANS 6:2, AND 5:22-25**

The Bible says that, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (Gal. 5:1) Pastor Jamie shares how we embrace that freedom as she teaches from Matthew 16:24-25, where Jesus offers us a paradox: that we must lose our lives to gain them. How can losing your life yield freedom? Is there another path? Our culture declares that freedom lay in exercising our personal autonomy to the greatest extent possible. On the other hand, religion says that we are bad, can't be trusted and that we must work hard to manage our behavior. The Gospel presents a third way, as Pastor Jamie says, "When the world says you're good and religion tells you you're bad, the Gospel shows you that you are loved."

It is within the security of God's love shared with others that we can be honest, finding healing, wholeness, and 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. When you hear the word freedom, what comes to mind?
2. How has our society defined freedom and how is that changing, if it is?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

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 kind of humans are we in Genesis 1+2, and what characterizes our relationship with God and one another? How about Genesis 3?
2. What does Jesus say is a requirement of following him?
3. How are losing and keeping your life related?
4. According to Galatians 6:2, how are we to support one another? What happens when we do as the verse commands?
5. What is the Spirit's fruit as listed in Galatians 5?
6. How do Christ's followers live their lives so that they might exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit?
7. According to Romans 8:1-2, what are we free from?

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

1. Where in our culture do you see personal autonomy cast as freedom? How is that influencing our society?
2. How do you see people who cannot agree on what "freedom" means trying to balance their competing claims? How is that working?
3. When have you felt most free within our culture? What was that like?
4. What's the difference between personal and political freedom, if any?
5. Where do you see people in culture limiting their "freedom" for the sake of others, if at all? Why do you think what you observe is so?

CONTINUED:

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. When you consider the Gospel, do you feel deeply loved by God? By others? Why or why not?
2. How is your concept of freedom different (if at all) from the biblical ideas presented in this message?
3. How has this sermon helped you to grow in your understanding of Kingdom freedom? How have your ideas been reinforced or challenged?
4. What might it look like for you to bear another's burden? Have you ever considered confession to be a kind of death? If so, what dies? How might any of that offer you freedom?
5. How do you feel condemned, if you do, and considering Romans 8:1-2, how might you be free from that burden?

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.*

1. Who can you help this week by helping to bear their burden? Consider reaching out and offering support, either practical, spiritual, or both so that you may help them find freedom.
2. Who can support you by hearing your confession? Maybe make some time to talk and pray with them this week.
3. Take a walk with God. Invite him to join you and ask the Spirit to reveal anything that may be eroding your freedom in Christ. Ask God what to do about that.