



# GROUP STUDY GUIDE

## WEEK 1 OF FREEDOM

**FREEDOM** Groups start in September!

Small Group Directory, including **FREEDOM** Groups, opens August 14.

[View the Group Directory Here](#)

To get the most out of the **FREEDOM** teaching series, purchase your **FREEDOM** book for \$10 at your campus and walk through the content with your small group. Each purchase includes a free T-shirt (while supplies last).

### WARM-UP QUESTION

If you could walk through the Garden of Eden for a day, what would you want to see or do first?

### DISCUSS

Why are your VIEWS of God and your APPROACH to God so critical to a healthy spiritual life following Jesus Christ? How can you verify that your understanding is based on truth and not opinion or emotion?

#### Read Genesis 2:8-9,16-17 (NLT).

- What are the two specific trees mentioned? What is their symbolic or spiritual significance?
- Why might God have placed both the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden?
- What freedom did Adam have in the garden? What was the consequence for disobedience?
- How do you respond to the idea that love and obedience must involve free will?

#### Read Genesis 3:1-7 (NLT).

- What question does the serpent ask the woman? What was his tactic for doing so?
- In what ways does the serpent twist or distort God's command? How do you see Satan doing that yet today?
- What is the significance of their realization that they were naked? Do today's choices of disobedience bring about similar feelings? Why or why not?
- What does this passage teach us about the nature of temptation and our need for grace and a Savior?

#### Read John 5:39-42 (NLT).

- Why do you think people could study the Bible and still reject Jesus? What is missing?
- What does this tell us about the nature of saving faith—mere knowledge vs. relational trust?
- Is your relationship with God currently more about duty or delight? What can you do to increase your love for God?

#### Read John 14:15 (NLT).

- How does love for God make it easier to obey Him? Conversely, how does a lack of love for God make it more difficult to obey?
- Are there areas of your life where you say you love Jesus, but struggle to obey him?

#### Read Romans 8:1-2 (NLT).

- What does "no condemnation" mean in this passage?
- What does it mean to be "in Christ Jesus"?

- Which tree above brings about increased awareness of “no condemnation”? Explain.

**Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NLT).**

- What does this passage reveal about God’s desire for relationship (Tree of Life) rather than just rule-keeping (Tree of Knowledge)?
- In what ways are you daily faced with choices between life (God’s way) and death (sin)? How can this passage guide you into a deeper relationship with God?