



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 3 OF FREEDOM

The Cypress Group Study Guide will pause beginning August 21 as small groups shift to the new Freedom Small Group curriculum for the Fall Semester.

FREEDOM books are available for \$10 at your campus store, and each purchase includes a free T-shirt (while supplies last).

WARM-UP QUESTION

Think about your friendships and connections right now. If your life were like a root system, would your roots be:

- Strong and deeply intertwined
- Shallow and disconnected
- Somewhere in between?
Why?

Read *Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)*.

- What does this verse teach about the way God designed the Church?
- Why is connection to the Body of Christ essential for growth?
- What are some examples of how you've been strengthened through relationships with other believers?

The New Testament contains over 100 "one another" commands—59 of them are specific actions (e.g., love one another, pray for one another, bear with one another).

- Which "one another" command has been most meaningful in your life?
- Which one is the most challenging for you to live out?

Read *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*.

- How does Paul describe the Church in this passage?
- What does it mean that every believer has a unique role in God's mission?
- How is the Church weaker when parts of the body are disconnected?

Read *James 5:13-16 (NLT)*.

- What three life situations are described here, and what does James tell believers to do in each?
- Why do you think James links prayer, confession, and healing to being connected in community?
- How have you experienced God's healing—emotional, spiritual, or relational—through other people?

Read *1 John 1:9* and *James 5:16*.

- Where does forgiveness come from? Where does healing come from?
- How is "healing" in this context more than just physical recovery?
- How can you take a step toward greater freedom through connection this week?

Your Next Step

The discipleship pathway moves from:

- Unbeliever → Believer → Follower → Disciple → Servant Leader.
- Which stage best describes where you are right now?
- What's one intentional step you can take to grow?