



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 4 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

If your faith journey were described as being in a river (ankle-deep, knee-deep, waist-deep, or fully swimming), where would you place yourself right now—and why?

DISCUSS

1. Life to the Fullest

Read *John 10:10 (NLT)*.

- Jesus says His purpose is to give us “a rich and satisfying life.” What does that mean to you?
 - Have you ever felt like your faith wasn’t changing much in your daily life? What caused that?
 - Where in your life do you long to experience more peace, joy, or purpose?
-

2. Seeing Clearly

Read *Mark 8:23-25 (NLT)*.

- Why do you think Jesus healed the blind man in stages rather than instantly?
 - Have you ever felt like your spiritual growth was happening in “layers” rather than all at once?
 - Where do you sense God wants to bring more clarity in your life?
-

3. Freedom Requires Ownership

Read *Mark 7:20-23 (NLT)*.

- What does Jesus say is the real source of our struggles?
 - Why is it easier to blame outside factors rather than take personal ownership?
 - What’s one area where you know God is calling you to grow, but it requires surrender on your part?
-

4. Salvation & Freedom

Read *Luke 23:39-43 (NLT)*.

- What did the criminal on the cross receive in that moment?
 - What did he miss out on by coming to Jesus so late in life?
 - How does salvation differ from daily freedom in Christ?
 - Why is it important to see salvation as a one-time decision, but freedom as an everyday choice?
-

5. Going Deeper with God

Read *Ezekiel 47:1-5, 9 (NLT)*.

- What do the different water levels (ankle, knee, waist, swimming) represent in our walk with God?
 - Why is “the middle of the river” the place of real surrender?
 - What holds people back from going deeper? What holds you back?
 - Verse 9 says, “There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows.” What does this promise mean for your life if you fully surrender?
-

6. Freedom in Relationships

Read *James 5:16 (NLT)*.

- What's the difference between forgiveness and healing?
- Why does God often use relationships to bring healing into our lives?
- Who do you have in your life that you can pray with and be honest with?

WRAP-UP

Freedom is found in surrender—going all in with God—and walking in community with others. Salvation secures your eternity, but freedom transforms your everyday life. God's will is that you would not only see His goodness in Heaven but also here "in the land of the living" (*Psalms 27:13*).