

LIFEGROUP STUDY
REAL GOOD QUESTIONS:
“Doesn’t Christianity Take Away Personal Freedom?”
20210509

PARTICIPANT NOTES

OVERVIEW

Welcome back to our series, Real Good Questions. Over the weeks of this series, we’re exploring six common challenges to Christianity and how Christ followers can respond. Our challenge this week is – “Doesn’t Christianity take away personal freedom?” Many people today believe Christianity is a straightjacket contrived by people who want to wield authority by taking away personal freedoms. Does Christianity inhibit me from being who I really want to be and doing what I really want to do? Or, does choosing to follow Jesus actually lead to the true freedom God designed me to experience?

ICEBREAKER - I’m Free! What memory comes to mind for you when you felt totally free? Maybe it was that exhilarating experience of skiing down the side of a mountain. Or, maybe that time you were up in a plane, looking over the vast landscape below you. Share with the group a favourite memory of a time you had that feeling – I’m free!

STUDY

1. On Sunday, Ken talked about how in our culture today freedom has become our highest pursuit. **What did he mean by this?**

2. **How would you define freedom?** Take a few moments to offer your definition of freedom with the group.

The Freedom Jesus Offers and Why We Resist It. (John 8:31-58)

3. READ: John 8:31-32

“Jesus said to the people who believed in him, ‘You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” NLT

- **Why is the truth so important to our quest for freedom?** (also read John 8:33-36)

4. READ: John 8:33

“But we are descendants of Abraham,’ they said. ‘We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free?’” NLT

- The people of Jesus’s day thought they were free, but they were really slaves to sin. **Why did they (and we) resist what Jesus was saying to them about freedom?**

5. READ: John 8:36

“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” NLT

- **How would you describe what it means to be truly free?**

6. Author, Timothy Keller, writes, “In many areas of life, freedom is not so much the absence of restrictions as finding the right ones, the liberating restrictions.” [The Reason for God](#)

- **What are some examples from our culture of liberating restrictions?**

7. **How might you make a case for saying Jesus’ teachings are liberating restrictions?**

8. READ: Ephesians 2:8-9

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” NLT

- In these verses we see the basis of our relationship with God is not based on rule following, but on faith. **How might these verses speak to someone who sees Christianity as limiting their freedom?**

9. **What has been a key learning for you from this week’s focus on freedom?**

PRAYER

This week, let’s pray for Creekside’s outreach in our community. Particularly, today we’ll be praying for The Big Serve.

- The Big Serve is Creekside's way of loving and caring for our Region in Jesus' Name. Pray for us as we network with agencies and ministries in our community and set up serve projects for this Summer. www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/
- Pray as a Lifegroup that God would give you as a group an idea for a Big Serve project that you could take on this Summer. It could be anything!
- Pray that God would give us opportunities through this community service to share the love of Jesus in deed as well as with our words. Pray that the people we serve will be drawn closer to the Lord through us.