

Essential: God's Freedom

Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application
Lynn Haven UMC – July 5, 2020 – Pastor Terry Tatum

Watch or read sermons online at mylhumc.net

As our regathering process as a church continues over the summer, we are discussing what is **essential** to our existence as a congregation. This week we consider how God's Freedom is essential for life.

Discussion Starters:

⇒ What does it mean to be “free”? Have you ever really wanted to be free from something? (Maybe a habit, a fear, a memory, an addiction or something else?)

Facts about freedom from scripture:

1. People have been searching for it for thousands of years.
2. God's answer to our loss of freedom has always been Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

When you embrace the gift of God's freedom you are:

1) Free from your Sin

Sin is very much a part of our lives. Left on our own, we will become slaves to sin – it can and will control us, often without us realizing it. We cannot escape the power and patterns of sin on our own; we need the help of Jesus Christ.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-19 NIV)

2) Free from your Past

All of us have made mistakes in our past and there are things we wish we had done differently. Making mistakes is a part of our life as sinners. However, we can be free from those sinful patterns (see #1 above) and we can be free from the weight of our past. It is wrong for us to live as prisoners of our past.

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32 NIV)

3) Free from your Self

Sometimes we need to learn to forgive ourselves, as Jesus has forgiven us.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36 NIV)

Personal Reflection Questions

⇒ Consider if there is something that you need to be free from. Is it a sin pattern in your life? Is it something in your past? Is it the way you talk to yourself and think about yourself in a condemning manner? God offers us freedom from the power and patterns of sin in our lives, and forgiveness so that we can walk in newness of life.

⇒ Have a serious discussion with God about what is going on in your life.

⇒ Who can you share your challenges and need for freedom with? A close friend, spouse, family member, small group member, or someone else? Ask someone to pray with you and for you, and to keep you accountable to walk in freedom.