

# Series Title: 'Experiencing Freedom'

**Primary Aim:** Throughout this series we are contrasting the freedom that the world offers with the freedom that can be ours in Jesus. The series hangs together around this rather than the individual sessions themselves. The summer sessions are a little more stand-alone but the spring sessions are intended to follow on from one another. It will be important that each of these sessions paints the big picture overview so people know where we are going.

## 1) Made to be Free: Created in the Image of God (Tick Diagram – Creation & Fall)

**Passages:** Genesis 1-3 & Galatians 5

**Blurb:** We begin by thinking about the nature of freedom; contrasting what the world says about freedom with what the bible says. We would then look at what it means to be free in Christ briefly. After this we would then go back to look at the story of Creation and the fall, thinking about how God originally created us to be Free in Eden within the reasonable bounds of His Love and Authority, and how we rejected that freedom to make ourselves the ultimate authority in our lives. (We would also introduce the tick diagram here). *For Reference see Study 1 of Freedom in Christ Bible Study series.*

## 2) Truly Free? (part i): Captives of our Hearts (Tick Diagram – Redemption)

**Passages:** Ephesians 2, Galatians 5 & Romans 5-7

**Blurb:** In this session, we will introduce the three captors of our souls (Eph 2), and then choose to focus in on how we currently live in the tension between being made free in Christ (Gal 5) but also being tempted by our sinful nature, i.e. the desires of the flesh. We will also consider what Jesus says to the Pharisees in John 8 about how they are slaves to sin, and look in depth at what Paul says about living under Grace and living under the law in Rom 5-7. (We would begin to cover the third part of the tick diagram, redemption, here). *For reference see Study 8 of Freedom in Christ Bible Study series*

## 3) Truly Free? (part ii): Captives of the World (Tick Diagram – Redemption)

**Passages:** 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Peter 1, Daniel 1 & Ephesians 6

**Blurb:** In this session, we are looking at the other two captors of our souls, the world and spiritual forces. We would touch upon what John says about not loving the things of the world. Then we will look at how we are being called to be holy, and Daniel's example of being transformed and not conformed to the world around us. Secondly, we would examine Paul teaching about how our battle is not against flesh and blood, but Spiritual forces. (We are again looking at the third part of the tick diagram, redemption). *For reference see Studies 7 and 9 of Freedom in Christ Bible Study series*

## 4) Free Indeed!: Living as God Intended (Tick Diagram – New Creation)

**Passages:** Revelation 21-22, Romans 8 & Isaiah 65

**Blurb:** Finally, we look forward to how we will ultimately be free in the New Creation, thinking about John's vision of the New Heaven and Earth. We would also address how we are living now in light of our transformation in Christ, thinking about what Paul says about living in the Spirit as opposed to living in the flesh. The Old Testament also has things to say about the new creation, e.g. that the lion and the lamb are able to co-exist (We would cover the final part of the tick diagram, new creation)

## 5) God's Gift to Us: Exploring our Sexuality (case study 1)

**Passage:** Genesis 1-3

**Blurb:** In this session, we would look at what it means to be made in God's image, as male and female. We are thinking about God's design for our sexuality based on His Godly Character, and how marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church. At the end we might briefly consider what the consequences are about how we misuse our sexuality, in ways that are contrary to the design God gave us. *For reference see Study 1 in Freedom in Christ Bible Study series.*

## 6) God's Delight in Us: Exploring our Identity (case study 2)

**Passages:** Psalm 139 & Ephesians 1:3-14

**Blurb:** In this session looks at how God delights in who He has created us to be. We will think about where we get our identity, but how this might differ from who God has made us to be. We will think about how we are free to be who God made us to be, how we were created to bear His image, how in Christ we are made to be New Creations and what the implications of our new identity might mean for our lives. Ultimately it is the story of how we can live knowing that God is pleased with us. *For reference see Studies 4 & 5 in Freedom in Christ Bible Study series*

## 7) God's Gift to Us: Exploring our Relationships (case study 3)

**Passages:** 1 John 4:7-16 & John 13

**Blurb:** In this session, we will think about how we often bolster up our identity by basing it in our relationships with others, i.e. friendships, familial or romantic. We will consider how God wants us to honour Him in our relationships, thinking specifically about how we can be a light to the world if we show our love for each other as Christian believers. We may also consider the dangers of placing our identity in a romantic partner instead of God because it upsets the idea that God has made us to have individual worth in Him, and that He values that we find ourselves in who He has created us to be, because other people cannot bear the responsibility of having our identity place in them. *For reference see Study 6 in Freedom in Christ Bible Study series.*