

“Chain Reaction” Group Study

Season 3: Light in the Darkness, **Week 2**

Passage: John 8:31-36

Pastor Ryan Paulson

ICEBREAKER:

1. Let's start with a little honesty today... What is a habit that you have tried to start and failed and another that you are really glad that you don't have?

As a way to get into the study, go back over the Sermon Outline from Sunday:

Abiding in Jesus is the **one thing** that **changes everything**.

1. Become **his disciples**
2. Experience **truth**
3. Enjoy **freedom**

Chains only **truly break** when they're **broken by Jesus**.



Learning His Way

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the Scriptures that try to help us Discover the unique Way of Jesus that is found in the text.)

1. Read through John 8:31-36. What stands out to you?
2. Explain the “chain reaction” (or progression of thought) that Jesus suggests in verses 31-32.
3. What is the irony of the Pharisees question in verse 33? Have they really never been slaves?
4. John 8:36 says, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Remember, Jesus said this before the cross, therefore he was talking to people who didn't know what true freedom meant. What do we know and what have we experienced that they didn't?



Forming His Heart

(This is the part of the study where we work on our own hearts. “How does my character need to grow and change because of this passage?”)

1. Like the Pharisees who denied being enslaved, is there any habit in your life that is guiding you towards enslavement? Jesus already knows it and has longed for you to see it too. Visualize handing it over to Jesus because only He can break that chain to provide true freedom.
2. Becoming like Christ happens through believing He is the truth and practicing living in His way. If you were to identify an area in your life that needs strengthened in your discipleship, is it abiding, experiencing His truth, or enjoying true freedom? Thank the Spirit for making you aware and ask for strength in persevering in the way of Truth.
3. Our flesh would have us be deceived, reliant, and defined by self instead of being controlled by the Spirit. Is there an area that the Spirit is asking you to be self-controlled and instead serve Him and others?



Joining His Mission

(This is the part of the study that we ask, “What would God want us to do because of this passage?”)

1. Is there freedom that living in the way of Jesus has already brought you? Prepare a short synopsis (<3 mins) of that freedom and ask God for a moment to share the testimony of His goodness this week with someone who needs it.

Church Announcements

Flourish Academy:

This week, Pastor Ryan talked about our need to become a disciple of Jesus in all of life, not just in spiritual matters. This is the main reason that we are offering the “Flourish Academy” this semester. This is a class that is offered over 5 Saturdays this Fall, and it starts this Saturday, Sept. 16. Visit this site for more information:

<https://flourishsandiego.org/academy/apply/>

Freedom in Christ:

Pastor Ryan also mentioned that it's not too late to join our Freedom in Christ class. This is a place where you will learn more about your identity in Christ. For more information and to register, visit: <https://efcc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/595/responses/new>

Jessica Klootwyk Meet & Greet

Next Sunday, September 16, our new Groups & Women's Director, Jessica Klootwyk, is going to be out in the Courtyard at a Life Group Tent between services (from 10:15-10:45am). Please come by and introduce yourself and let her know how you are involved in Life Groups. Then at noon, we are inviting all Life Group Leaders to come out for a special meeting in the Gym from 12-1pm (leaders will be getting a separate invitation with RSVP instructions for this meeting).