

FREEDOM LEADER GUIDE

WELCOME FREEDOM LEADER

Thank you for leading a Freedom group this semester. As someone who has experienced profound life changes through Freedom, you understand how powerful this semester will be for your group members.

As you prepare to lead, remember that you have the incredible privilege of walking alongside individuals as they encounter the truth and power of the Holy Spirit. This isn't just a curriculum; it's an invitation for people to experience true freedom.

Please know that you don't need to have all the answers or bear the weight of setting people free. That's the beautiful work of the Holy Spirit! Your role is simply to point people to Him and His Word, create a safe and supportive environment, and encourage them on their journey. Get ready to witness the Holy Spirit move in powerful ways!

FREEDOM CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Freedom experience consists of two main components: an 8-week small group curriculum and the Freedom Conference. The curriculum equips participants for a meaningful Freedom Conference. Each group concludes with a celebration gathering (the 9th meeting) after the conference, where members share what the Lord has done for them through their experience.

The participant book is intended for each participant to use for deeper personal reflection and Bible study. Each curriculum lesson is designed to be **completed by the participant the week before it is discussed**, and there are opportunities within the lesson for response and reflection each week. For example, participants will complete the lesson content and watch the video for Week One **before** arriving at the gathering to discuss the content of Week One.

Participants will receive a welcome email and instruction emails from Lifepoint, directing them to lifepoint.org/freedom for:

- Freedom book purchase
- Freedom Conference information and registration
- A PDF of Week One content for download if needed

FREEDOM LEADER GUIDE

As a Freedom Leader, you will assist in facilitating questions for your Freedom group's discussion. You are a shepherd who models listening to the Holy Spirit for insight, guidance, and next steps. Lean heavily on your training and the *Freedom Leader Training Guide* you received before this semester.

During your eight weekly small group meetings, you will lead participants through **discussion related specifically to the week's topic** and **pray for each participant individually before they are dismissed**.

The *Freedom Leader Guide* complements the Freedom curriculum and is designed for Freedom leaders to facilitate discussions and guide group flow. You are not required to ask every question each week. Use these questions as conversation starters to focus on discipleship and highlight spiritual truth being shared in each lesson.

ONLINE FREEDOM LEADER RESOURCES

You will find helpful Freedom leader resources and tools at lifepoint.org/small-group-resources

- Downloadable PDFs of this *Freedom Leader Guide* and the *Freedom Leader Training Guide*
- Links to the Freedom content videos
- A curated worship (with lyrics) playlist on YouTube

WEEKLY GROUP MEETING ROUTINE

Most Freedom groups will take 1.5 - 2 hours. Please plan additional time before your meeting begins to prepare the space and have the leaders pray for one another.

Group time should follow a predictable routine of the following activities:

	Sample 90-minute Group	Sample 2-hour Group
Community & Connection	10 minutes*	20 minutes*
Opening Prayer + Worship	8-10 minutes	8-10 minutes
Topic Discussion	40-50 minutes*	45-60 minutes*
Individual Prayer (before dismissal)	3 minutes x (# of participants) + 5-minute buffer	3 minutes x (# of participants) + 10-minute buffer

*Flexible based on timing needs

Remember, participants will achieve most of their freedom gains during their weekly time with the Lord, so there is some flexibility in how much time we spend discussing.

Community is a key component in finding Freedom. When we walk through challenging material together and find meaningful connections in our small group, we can make great strides in spiritual growth and freedom. Create an environment that is warm, welcoming, and well-paced. *Please review your training guide for more information.*

Thank you for your leadership! Your coaches and coordinators are praying for you and are here to support you each step of the way!

FREEDOM PRAYER FORMAT

As you recall from training, each participant receives a brief individual prayer at the end of each group session before being dismissed. Remember, it should focus on the week's topic and last approximately 3-5 minutes from "What's the Holy Spirit revealing to you about this topic?" to "Amen." Please refer to the *Freedom Leader Training Guide* for more guidelines regarding individual prayer time. Here is the Freedom Prayer Model for easy reference.

CONFESS

Healing starts with admitting we were wrong. We must first acknowledge we have believed something which is not true and have agreed with the lies of the enemy.

ENGAGE YOUR WILL AND CHOOSE

REPENT: To repent means to change direction. When we repent, we turn around and go the opposite way from our previous path.

RENOUNCE: To renounce means to come out of agreement with a belief. Stop your agreement with the enemy in its tracks and set your mind on a new course of thinking.

FORGIVE: If anyone has hurt you by reinforcing these lies in your life, forgive them and release them to the Lord.

CAST OFF

Sometimes, the enemy actively lies to us about who we are and who God is. We must refuse to allow the enemy to use destructive words or actions against us. With the authority of the Name of Jesus, command the enemy to leave.

BLESS AND FILL

Once the enemy has been removed, fill the space he occupied with Truth and promises found in Scripture. Speak life over yourself by declaring an accurate view of how God sees you.

WEEK ONE: MY FREEDOM JOURNEY

BEFORE YOUR FIRST GROUP MEETING

A few days before your first group meeting, please connect with your participants, reminding them to complete Week One: My Freedom Journey and visit lifepoint.org/freedom to view the video. You will be discussing the content in your first meeting.

GETTING YOUR GROUP STARTED

After your participants arrive, share any housekeeping items for your specific group and meeting space. Spend significant time getting to know one another this week.

Give an overview of the semester and let your group know what to expect. Each curriculum lesson is designed to be completed the week before it is discussed. Encourage your participants to go all in during their weekly time with Jesus and their Freedom book. They will get out of it what they put into it!

Participants appreciate structure and knowing exactly what to expect. Explain to your group what each meeting will look like: Worship > Lesson Discussion > Individual Prayer. Let them know you want to honor their time and will start and end on time every week.

Share the dates of the Freedom Conference and remind everyone to register ASAP through the emailed link or on lifepoint.org/freedom.

Then begin worship, have a brief discussion, and individual prayer.

1. If you feel comfortable sharing, why did you decide to go through Freedom?
2. The video discussed the two trees—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life—and how we relate to God. What, to you, was the most important difference between the two trees?
3. Do you feel you obey God out of delight in your relationship with Him, or demand?
4. What is the Holy Spirit showing you about how you approach your relationship with God?

WEEK TWO: TWO TREES

1. The Two Trees chart contrasts the Tree of Knowledge with the Tree of Life. Which aspects of the Tree of Knowledge perspective resonate most with you, and why?
 2. Shame is a feeling and a tool of the enemy. How might shame be affecting your day-to-day life and relationships?
 3. "Eating" (consuming or ingesting) ideas from worldly sources can lead to sin. What are some specific "worldly sources" you've noticed influencing your thoughts or beliefs, and how have they impacted your spiritual walk?
 4. How can you align your thoughts with Biblical truth and Tree of Life living into your daily routines?
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WEEK THREE: SPIRITUAL ORDER

1. The lesson defines "spiritual order" as aligning spirit, soul, and body with the Holy Spirit. What does this concept mean to you, and why is it essential for your spiritual freedom?
2. How have you experienced the ongoing process of "sanctification" in your own life? What are some challenges or breakthroughs you've encountered in allowing the Holy Spirit to transform your soul and body?
3. The lesson states that our spirit should be the "command center" of our identity and actions. What are some practical ways we can ensure our spirit is leading our soul and body in daily life?
4. Can you share an example of how your thoughts, feelings, or will have influenced your actions, either positively or negatively, and how you sought God in that situation?
5. How do we discern between conviction and condemnation, especially when we realize we're "out of spiritual order"? What does it mean to repent and receive God's grace in those moments?

PLEASE REMIND PARTICIPANTS to watch the week 4 video for next week and complete the lesson in the book—lifepoint.org/freedom for videos.

WEEK FOUR: SURRENDER

1. Can you share a personal example of when you struggled to trust God because you lacked understanding or control, and what the outcome was?
 2. Pride produces blockage in our hearts. It prevents and destroys our connection with God and others. How can we cultivate humility in our relationships?
 3. The Bible encourages surrendering "trust in relationships" and discusses giving up the "right to be right" to remain unoffended. How challenging is this in your most significant relationships? What practical steps can you take to cultivate this type of surrender?
 4. Thinking about the three areas of surrender (material things, self, relationships), which one do you find most challenging to fully release to God, and why?
 5. How can falling in love with Jesus help us lead to a surrendered life?
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WEEK FIVE: FORGIVENESS

1. "Harboring unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting another person to die." How have you experienced this truth in your own life or observed it in others?
2. How does understanding God's undeserved forgiveness for us transform our perspective on extending forgiveness to others, especially when it feels unfair?
3. In what situations might it be necessary to forgive someone without pursuing reconciliation, and how does the Holy Spirit guide us in making that distinction?
4. Can you identify common "baits" or triggers in your life that the enemy uses to pull you into unforgiveness? What strategies from the lesson can help you avoid or escape those traps?
5. Why do you think it can sometimes be harder to forgive ourselves than to forgive others? What is a practical way we can apply God's forgiveness to our own past failures?

WEEK SIX: POWER OF WORDS

1. Can you recall a time when someone's words profoundly impacted you, either positively or negatively, and what was the lasting effect?
2. Which "word of death" from the table resonates most with a lie you've believed about yourself, and which "word of life" helps counteract that lie?
3. How does regularly inviting the Holy Spirit to transform our perspective directly impact the words we speak?
4. Find *Scriptures for Living in Freedom* and *Who I Am in Christ* in the Appendix. What specific Word of Life from Scripture could you commit to speak over yourself and others this week?
5. What are some specific ways you can deposit God's Word into your heart and mind?

PLEASE REMIND PARTICIPANTS to watch the week 7 video for next week and complete the lesson in the book—lifepoint.org/freedom for videos.

WEEK SEVEN: SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

1. The video states that demons are "defeated" and "respond to a higher authority." How does understanding this foundational truth change your perspective on confronting them?
2. "Footholds" and "strongholds" are areas where the enemy gains control. What are some steps we can take to overcome them?
3. The Armour of God is in the Appendix. How can you prepare yourself for spiritual battle through the tools God gives us? Which weapon is your favorite? Which weapon would you like to use more?
4. "Spiritual warfare might feel daunting," but the lesson assures us we are "more than conquerors." What can you implement from this lesson to feel more equipped for spiritual battles?
5. Find the *Armor of God* in the Appendix. Which tool do you favor, and which tool is the Lord asking you to grow in using?

WEEK EIGHT: ALL IN

1. "Love for God transforms 'religious requirements' into relational joys; duty becomes devotion." How have you personally experienced this shift, or what makes it challenging for you to move from religious duty to genuine devotion in your worship?
2. The metaphor of the river (ankle-deep to middle of the river) illustrates different levels of surrender in worship. Which level do you most often find yourself in? What fears or desires for control might prevent you from "picking your feet up and floating" into deeper surrender?
3. Worship is an act of spiritual warfare, enabling us to fight **from** victory rather than **for** it. Can you share an example from your life where engaging in worship (even in a difficult situation) shifted the spiritual atmosphere or led to a breakthrough?
4. What is one specific area of your life (e.g., work, hobbies, parenting) where you tend to compartmentalize God, and how could inviting Him into that space transform it into an act of worship?
5. The story of Paul and Silas in prison shows radical worship in extreme circumstances. What are some practical steps we can take to cultivate an attitude of "unconditional worship" even when our circumstances are challenging or our prayers seem unanswered?