



Sermon Discussion Guide

July 26, 2026 - Pastor Matt Sees -

Freed and Formed by the Spirit (Galatians 5:15-26)

Discussion Starter

- What does counterfeit freedom look like in our culture today?
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Reflection Questions

- What does “independence instead of freedom” look like in your life right now?
 - What would it look like if you had true freedom instead?
 - How does this passage challenge the way we tend to think about personal change?
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Application Questions

- (Personal implications) What habits or patterns in your life do you constantly lose against? How will you **turn** away from self sufficiency and toward the Father for help this week?
- (Missional implication) One of the ways we walk by the Spirit is by taking **risks**; real steps of obedience in trust. Where is God asking you to take a risk?
 - Ask your trustworthy Father to bring a risk-taking opportunity for you this week and share the outcome with the group next week.
- (Communal implications) What would it look like for our group to intentionally help one another grow spiritually and guard against performing for one another?
- When conflict arises in our church: how can we discern whether our response is being shaped by the flesh or by the spirit?

- Vision Question: We are a family of disciples on mission. Take some time to pray together for our church to walk by the Spirit using pastor Matt's four movements as a prayer guide:
 - **Turning:** Away from self-sufficiency and toward the Father.
 - **Asking:** Bring needs and longings to Him.
 - **Risking:** Taking real steps of obedience in trust.
 - **Waiting:** Patience for the incremental process of growth.

This week's guide written by: Camilo Rebolledo

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"