

DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 15: APRIL 26 & 29

LEADER INFO:

The official Spring semester ends May 6. This is a great time to identify a new leader and help them get into a training so they can launch in the summer. The Summer semester starts June 4. Over the break we will provide a leaner version of curriculum.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Compassion Mobile Experience – This year we will have the Compassion Truck set up at the Arlington campus for people to walk through and see how God has rescued children all over the world from poverty in Jesus name. Sign up to serve at this wonderful experience!

April 26-30 at the Arlington campus

Find times and a reservation link coe22.com/news

Baptism Classes – If you have never been baptized as a Believer we want to celebrate this next step of faith at Beach Baptism on May 20! Join us at a baptism class **offered now-May 20 after every service at all campuses.**

New Disciple Group Leader Trainings – If you are interested in leading a Disciple Group go to coe22.com/disciplegroups to fill out the application and sign up for a training in April or May.

School of Ministry Apprenticeships – School of Ministry is a comprehensive leadership development program designed to equip and train individuals in one of two roles: as an apprentice who is further discerning his or her ministry calling, or as an intern* who is specifically called to full-time ministry in a particular area. Apprentices serve alongside staff in a specific ministry area, offering several unique opportunities in which an apprentice may serve. **Summer apprenticeships begin May 7**

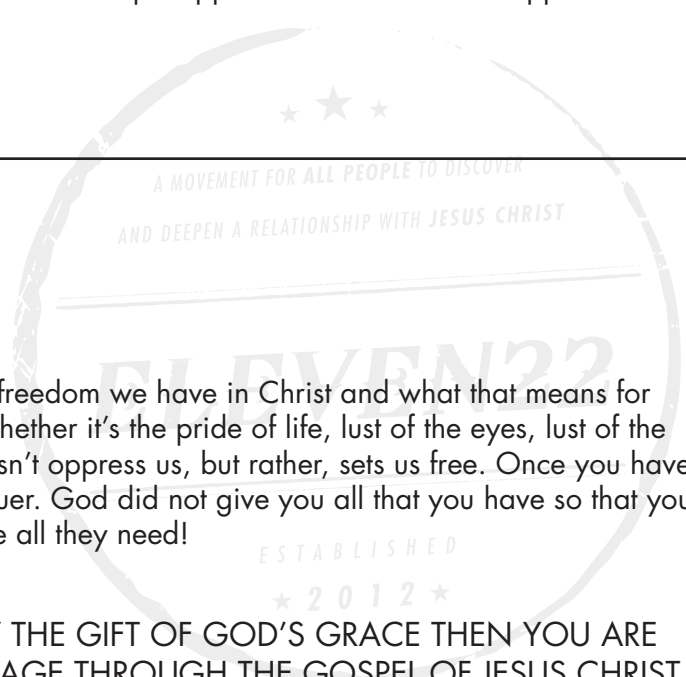
Learn more and apply at coe22.com/schoolofministry.

TEXTS: ROMANS 6:15-23

THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

In week 15 of Romans, Pastor Joby explained the freedom we have in Christ and what that means for us as Christ followers. We are all owned by something, whether it's the pride of life, lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, or by God Himself. God is the only Master that doesn't oppress us, but rather, sets us free. Once you have been rescued by God, you go from the rescued to the rescuer. God did not give you all that you have so that you could have all that you want, but so that others could have all they need!

THE POINT: WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE BY THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE THEN YOU ARE FREE TO GRACE OTHERS THAT ARE STILL IN BONDAGE THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.



TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read Romans 6:5-11 out loud.

Again and again, Paul demonstrates that the grace of God is not an excuse to sin. It is because of God's grace that we are forgiven of our sins and given a new identity in Christ. In fact, Paul explains that living a life of habitual sin is not compatible with one whose life is changed by grace. God frees us from the bondage that Satan uses to entrap us. Because Christ has broken our chains, we can live in the freedom that only He provides. Have someone read Romans 6:15-20 out loud.

Paul says clearly that we are slaves. We are either slaves to sin, which leads to death, or we are slaves to obedience, which leads to righteousness. God is the only thing in this world that will free us, not oppress us. The righteousness we get to walk in is not performance driven, but it is referring to our right standing with God. Because of that right standing with God, we have a freedom that we have never experienced. We no longer have to present our bodies to sin. We can now present our bodies to God.

1. What do these verses tell you about God's character?

(We must first start with what Scripture tells us about the character of God before we can see what it reveals about ourselves. God is gracious. Though we have sinned against Him time and time again, He offers abundant grace. Through that grace, we are able to live in freedom.)

2. What does it mean to be a "slave to righteousness?"

(Righteousness is right standing with God, not right activity, but because of God's grace in our lives, we should act differently.)

3. How does this freedom affect your relationship with Christ?

(Think of specific examples from your life. Last week, we learned that if we have been set free from sin, we should be living like it! You don't have to do the things you used to do because you're not the person you used to be.)

Have someone read Romans 6:20-23 out loud.

There are only two options – you are either a slave to sin or you are free from sin and a slave to God. Your choice is not to break the rules or to follow the rules, nor is it "try harder next time." Your choice is between death and eternal life. If you are in Christ, then you have received the free gift of salvation. This is not something that you can keep to yourself!

4. What has Jesus freed you from?

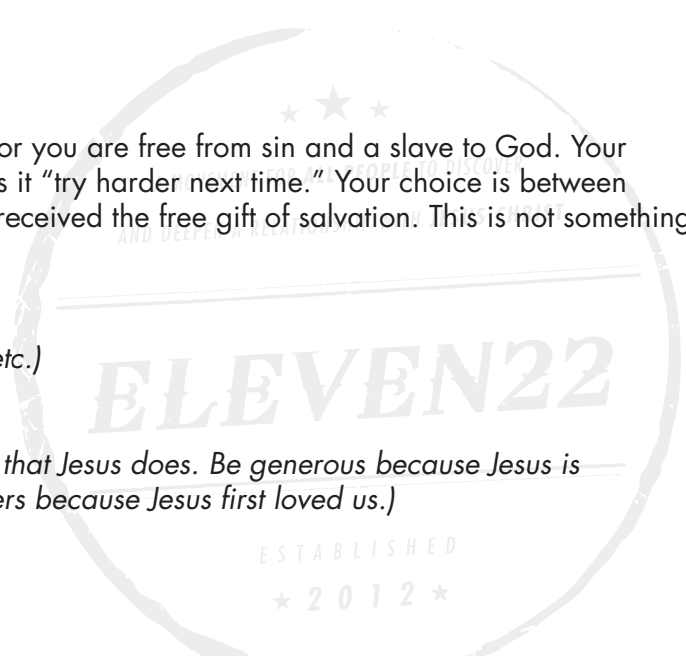
(This could be a specific sin, legalism, addiction, etc.)

5. What had Jesus freed you for?

(The fruit of righteousness is that you do the things that Jesus does. Be generous because Jesus is generous. Be kind because Jesus is kind. Love others because Jesus first loved us.)

Have someone read Galatians 4:3-7 out loud.

In Galatians, Paul explains again that we are no longer slaves but children of the Most High God. Not only does

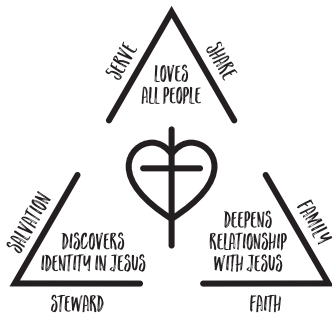


He free us from our bondage, but He also adopts us into His family and calls us His children. In an instant our identity is changed. We are no longer who we used to be, and we no longer have to do the things we used to do. A new identity is not simply a name change – it leads to changes in every aspect of our lives, including our actions, thoughts, and desires. Romans 12:2 tells us that we no longer have to conform to the patterns, actions, and thoughts of this world and that even our minds are transformed by Christ. Our new identity in Christ changes everything!

- 6. What do these verses tell you about who you are in Christ?
(You are made new. You are set free. You are a child of the King.)
- 7. What actions can you take to surrender your bondage to Christ?
(Give specific examples. For example, if you make money your idol, give more.)
- 8. God's family never stops growing. He freed you from bondage and gave you a new identity. How can you share that freedom with those around you?
(Tell your neighbor about Jesus. Give generously. Sponsor a child through Compassion.)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



When you have been SET FREE by the gift of God's GRACE then you are FREE to GRACE others that are still in bondage through the gospel of Jesus Christ. By putting this into action, we have the opportunity to release a child (or better yet many children) from poverty in Jesus name through Compassion. If you would like to sponsor a child or several children, you can do so by going to www.compassion.com.

