

The Power of God's Promises “The Promise of Freedom”

INTRODUCTION

None of us would call ourselves 'slaves', but if we think about how we live our lives, we might admit that we are often motivated and thus 'controlled' by urges and desires of the flesh, or expectations and pressures of our worldly culture. But the truth is that we choose what and who we follow. The consequences of this choice are serious and eternal. One will lead to death, and the other to freedom and life. Let's see what God has to tell us about this in the following study.

Ice Breaker Game - Optional (5 min):

Pair-up and face one-another (a group of three is ok for odd number group). Look carefully at each other for 15 seconds, then turn your backs for 2 minutes and change three things about your appearance (e.g., part your hair on opposite side, switch shoes with someone, etc.). Now, face each other again and try to identify the changes in the other person within 1 minute. Call 'time' at 1 minute and stop. The winner is the one able to 'hide' the most changes from their partner.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. The Power to Save Your Soul - Read James 1:19-21 and Romans 1:16

Q1. What three things does James encourage us to do? (v. 19) In what ways do you think doing these things can help us to live the righteous life that God desires?

Q2. What would it mean to 'humbly accept the Word that was planted in you'? (try to comment on the underlined words as part of your answer)

Q3. We see from James 1:21, that God's Word becomes planted in our lives. When do you think the seed was first sown in you? Has it become planted in you? How? Can you give any experiences that demonstrate how the strength and power of God's Word has worked in your life?

2. The Law That Gives Freedom - Read James 1:22-25 and Romans 6:22-23

Q4. Take a minute to 'look into the mirror of your soul'. Do you see areas of your life that you feel God wants to change or improve? Will this be an opportunity to forget what you have seen, or take action and be set free and blessed? What action might you take?

Read John 8:29-36

Q5. What (and who) is it that truly sets us free? (see also John 14:6) What is it that qualifies us as real disciples?

3. Greatness is Measured by How we Love Read James 1:26-27 and 1 John 3:18

Q6. What types of uncontrolled speech can discredit our Christian witness? Have you witnessed a case of this?

Q7. As a group, can you think of any ways your “action can speak louder than words” in loving others and living out your Christian witness?

WRAP-UP

It is truly amazing how much our actions will influence the people around us. Live free under the law of Jesus that speaks holiness, grace, and love and watch how the world responds.

Memory Verse: John 8:31b-32 (NIV). "...Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____
Pray for your group members' needs (use other side also):

Challenge: If your words have hurt someone, apologize to them. Read Hebrews 10:25 and commit to building others up.