

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:1 (The Message Translation)

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

Discovery Bible Study Exercise: In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Write out Galatians 5:1
- Step #2: Re-write Galatians 5:1 in your own words
- Step #3: Write out what you discover about the Christian life and the work of the Holy Spirit from this scripture.

Daily Meditation Reading:

- Day 1 – Exodus 17:8-15
- Day 2 – Galatians 5:1-15
- Day 3 – Galatians 5:16-21
- Day 4 – Galatians 5:22-26
- Day 5 – Galatians 6:1-18

Lesson:

1. Read Exodus 17:8-15. What is a lesson from this story, as it applies to Spiritual Warfare and the work of Holy Spirit?

The lesson God has given to me is that He is my strength and my victory. My faith is all that I need to win battles in against the world and the evil realms.

Just as Moses was not in the battle with Joshua, so God and (I will add) others are in the battle with us praying to our Lord even when they are not in on the front line. Without Moses hands being lifted to God, Joshua could not win. Without Aaron and Hur, Moses could not keep his hands lifted to God (we need partners in the battle to keep our eyes on Jesus and our hands lifted to Him). Even Aaron and Hur could not do it alone, they needed a rock for support. Jesus is our Rock and He is our support today. He is interceding for us and lifting us up everyday. James 4:10 reminds us to humble ourselves before the Lord and He will lift us up.

2. What correlations can you make between the lesson from Exodus 17 and the teachings from Galatians on walking by the Spirit?

This question may indeed be difficult for people to relate to but could cause good discussion even if it creates confusion. Feel free to skip it if you choose. I know we need God to fight our battles over sin. We need to have faith in His victory. We need to be reminded that we have victory already.

3. How does living as a slave to sin harness you from living the in freedom of Christ?

Let people share from their hearts and their pasts as they are comfortable. If I gratify my sinful nature I am going contrary to my Spirit within and I do not do what I desire. I know for me this is a constant battle within. To do what Christ's Spirit in me is telling me and resist what my spirit is tempting me to do. I do not find peace when I gratify my sinful nature, I find guilt. It is only when I repent and turn back to God do I find peace and experience victory once again.

4. Share your thoughts on this week's memory verse and what God has revealed to you about living a life of freedom and victory?

I must stand in faith of His victory over sin and the world. I must remember that I have overcome and that the power in me can help me resist the devil and His schemes. If I am free I must live a life of freedom. Remember, if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.

5. What are three things you feel you must do to truly live by the Spirit as you have learned in Galatians 5?

Here are three of mine:

- Rest in faith in God and His power
- Resist the slavery of sin by standing firm in the power of freedom in Christ
- Know He has given me victory over the law.