



## WELCOME!

### SPEAK THE WORD CHURCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

#### GOAL

- ☐ For women to come together and discuss their faith in Christ related to the topic of freedom.
- ☐ To identify bible scriptures related to our freedom in Christ.
- ☐ To provide a greater understanding of your faith and to understand where freedom or bondage exists in your life.
- ☐ To have a biblical understanding of the grace of God for your life vs. religious legalism.
- ☐ To create a space in your life to allow the Lord to fill you with his compassion and for you to learn to be self-compassionate.

#### INTRODUCTION & ICEBREAKERS

- ☐ Introduce yourself to a new person!
- ☐ Discuss your reasons for attending this specific bible study. What intrigued you about this topic?
- ☐ List the areas of your life where you want freedom. Discuss your answers with your group.
- ☐ Example: "I want the Lord to help me with\_\_\_\_\_". Why? What happened in your life and what should happen in the future to gain godly freedom in this area?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.

## Foundation Scriptures

### **Galatians 1:6-7,**

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ [...] <sup>10</sup> Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

### **Galatians 5:1,6**

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

### **Romans 5:1-5**

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

### **Psalms 119:41-47**

41 May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your promise. 42 then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word. 43 Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. 44 I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. 45 I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. 46 I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, 47 for I delight in your commands because I love them. 48 I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees.

### **Psalms 25:1-7**

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. 2 I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. 3 No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. 4 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. 5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. 6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

## WHAT IS FREEDOM?

Defined: “Freedom”

- ❖ The quality or state of being free.
- ❖ Liberation and independence from slavery or restraint or from the power of another.
- ❖ The quality or state of being exempt or released.
- ❖ Ease



## A. THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

*The History of the Galatian Church:*

### DESERTING THE GOSPEL

**Galatians 1:6-7,**

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ [...] <sup>10</sup> Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- 1) Are there areas of your life where you could use more grace? What has happened in your life that has restricted your freedom in certain areas?
- 2) What is dangerous about “people pleasing” as a Christian? How does this restrict your freedom in Christ?
- 3) How can Christian women lose their freedom in Christ and quickly desert the gospel?
- 4) What’s the difference between serving Christ and people pleasing?

- 5) What has been your experience with legalistic Christians who've said something or behaved in such a way that caused you to question your faith? How did their treatment of your support or negate your faith?
- 6) Why is it so important to understand the freedom that Christ wants you to have?

## **PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM #1 I AM JUSTIFIED BY FAITH**

### **Galatians 2:16**

16 [...] know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified [...]

19 "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"[e]

### Scripture Examples:

#### Luke 13:10-17 A Daughter of Abraham

10 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, 11 and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." 13 Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. 14 Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." 15 The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? 16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" 17 When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

#### Mark 5:21-34 Women with the Issue of Blood

21 Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. 22 Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, 23 pleading fervently with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said. "Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live." 24 Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. 25 A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. 26 She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent

everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. 28 For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” 29 Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

30 Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?” 31 His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” 32 But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. 34 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”

### **Romans 5:1-5**

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) Have there ever been areas of your life where you felt like others restricted your freedom? How did they make life difficult for you? How did you become free? How did the Lord help you?
- 2) How did Jesus provide freedom to the woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years? How did he help her? What impact did the synagogue leader have upon her healing? How was she justified by faith?
- 3) What was the key point of freedom for the woman with the issue of blood?
- 4) What was common with both women? Did they do any “works” to be free?

### **PRINCIPLE # 2 I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

**Definition of Passion:** The state or capacity of being acted on by external agents or forces, the emotions as distinguished from reason, intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction, ardent affection.

**Definition of Desire:** To long or hope for, to exhibit or feel, to express a wish for, to ask, to crave or have a longing for, appetite, formal request.

Scripture Examples:

#### John 8:1-11 Women Caught in the Act of Adultery

8 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 4 “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” 11 “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

#### Matthew 20:2—28 The Mother of James & John

20 Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. 21 “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.” 22 But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!” 23 Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.” 24 When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. 25 But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 26 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your

servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. 28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

### Discussion Questions

- 1) What do you think were the passions and the desires of the women caught in the act of adultery? What did Jesus do to set her free? What was her responsibility to “crucify” her passions and desires that brought her to this place in her life?
- 2) What were the passions and desires of the mother of James& John? Were there any passions and desires that she had to crucify in her heart for her sons when she brought her request to the Lord? What did Jesus do to set her free?
- 3) What are the godly passions and desires in your heart that should come forth?
- 4) What are some ungodly passions and desires in your heart that should be crucified?

### Galatians 5:16-23

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

THE END- PLEASE JOIN US FOR PART 2 ON MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>