

Session 2: Unashamed to Follow

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: True freedom is found in our decision to follow after Christ, not following after our own desires.

Head Change: To understand the difference between true freedom and bondage.

Heart Change: To feel safety and joy in following Christ, rather than the confinement of sin.

Life Change: To live a life of faithfulness to Christ and his standards through an obedient lifestyle of following him.

OPEN

When was the first time you felt a sense of freedom—like getting a driver's license, or going away to college? What did you feel at that moment?

We all love the idea of freedom—being free gives us a sense of control and the joy of choosing what we want. But what we decide to do with our freedom can either cause us to flourish or damage our lives.

In session two of our study, Lecrae will talk about what it means to follow Jesus and how following him gives us the true freedom we long for.

VIEW

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Lecrae's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

How does Lecrae define true freedom?

What does it look like to faithfully follow Christ?

Watch Session 2: *Unashamed to Follow* (8 minutes)

REVIEW

Lecrae began the session by telling us that sheep are not only completely defenseless but dumb as well. They get lost and can't take care of themselves without help. In many ways, they need a shepherd to survive. **Does it surprise you that the bible often calls Christians "sheep"? In what ways are we like sheep?**

One thing that surprised Lecrae about sheep was that they only follow the voice of their own shepherd—being able to distinguish his voice from all others. They are free to roam around a pasture and even intermix with other herds because they can hear their shepherd, and their shepherd knows that when he calls them they will respond. Similarly, we respond to God's voice rather than the influencers and opinions in our culture. **What habits—like reading the Bible or prayer—could you incorporate into your daily life to help discern God's voice? What might God be saying to you today?**

In our culture, freedom is the highest goal of life. We feel that structure, discipline, and boundaries keep us from following our hearts or discovering who we are. **In what way, if at all, have you viewed the Christian life as restrictive? Do you feel like Christianity restrains or provides freedom? Explain your answer.**

While acting on our desires can feel like freedom, we become controlled by whatever we decide to chase. Money, possessions, praise, or status can quickly

become a master we serve rather than a freedom we experience. **What things in our culture promise us freedom? In what ways can money, fame, power, etc. become masters that we serve?**

Whether you are a Christian or not, you are bound to a master—we all serve someone or something. When we turn to Jesus, he promises us freedom without caveat or catch (Gal. 5:1). Like a good shepherd, he wants us to know and respond to his voice. **What freedom have you experienced from following Jesus? What pressures and bondage has he set you free from?**

Serving God is far more than simply showing up to church on Sunday. He wants us to be faithful to him in every area of our lives, using all of our gifts and resources to serve him. **In what areas of life can you be more faithful to God?**

There are times when God will ask us to deny our own desires. We can't be faithful if we aren't willing to submit to God's standards and direction. **What sorts of things has God asked you to give up or deny? Was it worth removing that thing from your life?**

Following God might not always be glamorous, but it is worth it in the end. In him, we find a more fulfilling life, where our gifts can bless others and we are made more like Jesus. That is a win-win. **In what ways would you like to be more like Jesus? What opportunities is God giving you to serve him and the people around you?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Following Jesus isn't always easy. We will still be tempted to chase after the same lifestyles, behaviors, and comforts as others in our culture. And, as Lecrae said, many of us need to inform our former lives that we're no longer enslaved to sin but bound to and living for Jesus. Read Romans 6:16–23.

How does Paul describe the difference between being a slave to sin and a slave to obedience? In what ways have you ever thought of yourself as being spiritually enslaved to obedience?

When we are without Christ, we are slaves to sin. Sin can feel like freedom, but it always causes us to need more of it. For example, if you are enslaved to money, no amount of wealth will satisfy you. When we seek anything but God, we are bound to always seek more. **In what other ways have you seen or experienced your sin demanding obedience?**

We find true freedom in Christ. Our value, purpose, joy, and hope are no longer tied to the fleeting pleasure of sin or idols, but to God’s timeless promises and nature. Even so, there are times we will be tempted to go back to our old sins for their conditional promises. **In what ways do our old sins promise to give us hope, meaning, or purpose? How do they let us down and not fulfill those promises?**

This passage highlights that it is foolish for those of us who have the freedom of Christ to go back to sin. But rejecting old sins can be easier said than done. **What accountability or practices could make it easier for you to reject sin when it tempts you?**

Verses 19–22 show us the result of our decisions. Whatever we serve will shape our lives. If we serve sin, our actions will lead to more brokenness, but if we serve God, we will be sanctified or made holy. **In what ways have sin and righteousness shaped your life?**

Who do you want to be in the future? How might serving God help make you that kind of person?

Romans 6:23 is one of the most well-known verses in the Bible. Many of us who grew up in church have it memorized. But in context, we can see this famous verse in a new way. You will either work for God or sin and whoever you work for will “pay” you a wage. **Reread Romans 6:23. What sort of payoff do you want in your life?**

What steps could you take to serve God more faithfully this week?

LAST WORD

We're all serving a master, whether we realize it or not. You are either bound to serve sin or Jesus—only one delivers on the promise of freedom. In Christ, we are not only free from enslavement to sin but given the freedom to love and serve God and others.

Like sheep, we can make mistakes, and fall back into old habits. But if we know God's voice, we can always turn back to him. He knows and loves us and wants us to be all that he created us to be.

DEEPER WALK

Practice: Accept Lecrae’s challenge to practice faithfulness by getting involved in your local church. Find where they need help from volunteers and serve God’s people.

Pray: Ask God to help you learn his voice like sheep learn their shepherds. Ask him to help you be obedient whenever you do hear him.

Remember: Lecrae encouraged us to tell our former selves that we're no longer enslaved to Satan and his kingdom. Take some time to look back over your life and thank God for how far he's brought you.