



Small Group Guide – May 3

Masterpiece: Set Free from Sin

Date: May 3, 2026

Focus Passage(s): Romans 7–8

Theme: Jesus sets us free from the power and destruction of sin.

Suggested Schedule (60 minutes total)

Segment	Time	Description
Icebreaker	10 min	Get comfortable, begin connecting
Intro/Recap	5 min	Read the key passages for the week
Group Discussion	25 min	Dive into Scripture and discuss application
Deeper Dive Option	5–10 min	Deeper Bible study or individual challenge
Prayer & Requests	10–15 min	Close in prayer for growth + personal needs

Welcome + Icebreaker (10 min)

Have you ever gotten stuck in a frustrating situation and had to get creative to get out? What happened?

What is something people often think will bring freedom, but actually can create more stress or pressure?

Key Message Recap

We are continuing our Masterpiece series, discovering who God says we are and talking about freedom. Sin promises freedom, but it always delivers chains. Jesus doesn't just forgive sin. He sets us free from its power.

Read Romans 7:24-25 and Romans 8:1-2 together.

What stands out to you most about Paul's transition from desperation to hope?

Discussion Questions (25 min)

The Trap of Sin:

Read Romans 7:21-23.

Why do you think Paul describes sin as slavery?

How have you seen sin promise freedom, but actually create bondage?

Why is sin often hard to recognize as destructive in the beginning?

Key Truth: Sin controls, traps, and destroys.

The Inner Battle:

Paul describes wanting to do right, but still struggling. Why do you think this internal struggle is so universal?

What sins or struggles tend to pull people back repeatedly?

Key Truth: The struggle with sin is real, but it is not hopeless.

Freedom Through Jesus:

Read Romans 8:1-2.

What does “no condemnation” mean to you personally?

What is the difference between condemnation and conviction?

How does Jesus’ work on the cross change our identity?

Key Truth: Jesus breaks the power of sin and removes condemnation.

Confession, Repentance, and Surrender:

Why is confession often so difficult?

What does genuine repentance look like?

What areas of life are hardest for people to fully surrender?

Key Truth: Freedom begins when sin is brought into the light.

Real-life Application

What is one area where you need to stop managing sin and start surrendering it?

This week, confess one area of sin or struggle, honestly to God. Consider sharing it with a trusted, godly person. Take one practical step of repentance.

Deeper Dive Character Study: The Woman Caught in Adultery

Scripture: John 8:1-11

This woman's story powerfully demonstrates both the seriousness of sin and the freedom Jesus offers. She is publicly exposed, shamed, and condemned by others, but Jesus responds with both truth and grace. He neither excuses her sin nor condemns her. Instead, He offers freedom and a new direction.

Key Moments

Condemnation by Others – John 8:4-5

The religious leaders focus on shame and punishment.

Jesus' Grace – John 8:7

“Let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone.”

Jesus Exposes Sin in Everyone – John 8:9

Her accusers leave.

Jesus' Freedom – John 8:11

“Go and sin no more.”

Jesus offers forgiveness and transformation.

Discussion Questions

Why do you think shame is such a powerful weapon in sin?

How does Jesus balance grace and truth in this story?

Why is it important that Jesus does not condemn her, but also does not excuse sin?

How do you personally relate to either the woman or the crowd?

Key Takeaways

Jesus confronts sin without condemning identity.

Shame is broken in the presence of Jesus.

Freedom includes forgiveness and transformation.

Just like Paul in Romans, this woman's story reminds us that sin is real, but the grace that Jesus gives is greater. He does not leave us trapped. He offers freedom, grace, and a new identity. You are not defined by your sin. You are set free in Christ.

Prayer

Freedom-Focused Prayer:

Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and freedom.

Confess areas of hidden sin.

Ask for courage to repent and surrender.

Pray for freedom, healing, and restoration.

Invite group members to share struggles or prayer needs.

Emphasize confidentiality, grace, and support.

Optional Communion Moment -

Take communion together as a reminder that Jesus' body was broken and His blood was shed not only for forgiveness, but for freedom.

Communion reminds us that sin's power has been defeated through Christ.