

## Life Group Leaders Guide: Pono Church 2 - 2 Corinthians 3

### Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to remove any veils over hearts and minds, and invite the Holy Spirit to bring freedom and transformation during your time together.

### Worship Song Suggestions (10 minutes)

"Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" – Chris Tomlin or similar

"King of Kings" – Hillsong Worship

"No Longer Slaves" – Bethel Music

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (traditional or modern arrangement)

### Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

**Question:** Share a moment when you experienced an overwhelming sense of purpose or calling in your life. How did that moment shape you?

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### Key Scripture Passages

**2 Corinthians 3:16-18** "But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

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### Discussion Questions

#### Part 1: The Veil Removed (20 minutes)

- 1. Personal Reflection:** Mario asked, "What veil am I living under? What do I need freedom from?" Take a moment of silence to ask God this question, then share what comes to mind if you feel comfortable.
- 2. Moses' Story:** Moses had to veil his face because the Israelites couldn't handle God's glory, even secondhand. Later, he kept the veil on to hide that the glory was fading. Where in your life might you be "keeping up appearances" rather than genuinely encountering God's presence?
- 3. Bondage to Freedom:** The sermon stated, "Freedom started with a change of location, but required a transfer of lordship in their lives." The Israelites left Egypt physically but carried Egypt in their hearts. What "Egypt" (old patterns, beliefs, or bondages) might you still be carrying despite being set free by Christ?

## Part 2: Turning Toward Jesus (20 minutes)

5. **The Woman with the Issue of Blood:** She had faith that simply touching Jesus' garment would heal her. What does this level of faith look like in your daily life? What keeps you from reaching out to Jesus in desperation?
6. **Identity Crisis:** The enemy whispers lies about our identity and worth. What are some common lies the enemy tells you? How does turning to Jesus counter those specific lies?
7. **The Pathway to Freedom:** Review the pathways mentioned in the sermon:
  - Lies → Truth (Jesus)
  - Sickness → Wholeness (Jesus)
  - Anxiety → Peace (Jesus)
  - Confusion → Clarity (Jesus)
  - Anger → Grace (Jesus)

Which pathway resonates most with where you are right now? Why?

## Part 3: Transformation and Glory (15 minutes)

8. **Image Bearers:** The sermon explained that we are being transformed "from one degree of glory to another" into Christ's image. Unlike Moses, who reflected God's glory externally, which faded, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. How does understanding that you carry God's light internally (not just reflect it) change how you see yourself?
  9. **The Difference Between Reflection and Emanation:** Mario said, "We don't reflect light. We emanate it." What practical difference does this make in how you approach your daily life, relationships, and challenges?
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### Key Takeaways

1. **The veil is removed when we turn to Jesus** - Freedom begins with turning our hearts toward Christ, not just changing our circumstances.
2. **Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom** - True freedom is only found in the presence of God's Spirit, not in worldly solutions.
3. **We are being transformed into Christ's image** - Unlike Moses' fading glory, the Spirit within us continually transforms us from glory to glory.
4. **The answer is always Jesus** - Every pathway from bondage to freedom goes through Jesus Christ.
5. **We emanate, not just reflect** - The Holy Spirit dwelling in us makes us light sources, not just mirrors.

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

**Daily Practice:** Each morning this week, ask God: "What veil do I need removed today? What do I need freedom from?" Write down what He reveals and consciously turn toward Jesus in that area.

#### Specific Actions:

1. **Identify Your Veil:** Write down one specific area where you need freedom. Be honest about what's keeping you in bondage.
  2. **Turn Toward Jesus:** Choose one practical way to turn toward Jesus regarding this area:
    - Confess it to a trusted brother or sister
    - Spend 15 minutes in worship daily
    - Memorize a scripture that speaks truth to your specific struggle
    - Fast from something that feeds the bondage
  3. **Accountability:** Share your struggle with at least one person in this group and ask them to check in with you this week.
  4. **Fathers (and father figures):** Reflect on what lies the enemy tells you about your ability to lead and love your family. Write down three truths from Scripture that counter those lies.
  5. **Behold His Glory:** Set aside 20 minutes this week to simply sit in God's presence. No agenda, no requests—just behold Him in worship, Scripture, or silence.
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### **Closing Exercise (10 minutes)**

Prayer Pathway: Go around the circle and have each person share:

1. One area where they need freedom
2. The pathway Jesus offers (from lies to truth, from anxiety to peace, etc.)

After each person shares, have the group pray specifically for that person's freedom, declaring the truth of who they are in Christ.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pray together:

- For the removal of veils over hearts
- For the courage to turn fully toward Jesus
- For transformation from glory to glory
- For freedom where the Spirit of the Lord is present
- For each specific need shared in the group

### **Scripture Memory Verse**

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

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### **Additional Resources**

For Further Study:

- Exodus 34:29-35 (Moses and the veil)
- Mark 5:25-34 (Woman with issue of blood)
- Galatians 5:1 (Stand firm in freedom)
- John 8:36 (Whom the Son sets free)
- Romans 8:1-2 (No condemnation, freedom from sin and death)

**Recommended Action:** Before next week's meeting, journal about one way you experienced freedom by turning toward Jesus this week.

*Remember: The answer is always Jesus. It's simple, but not easy. Keep turning toward Him.*

### **Additional Discussion Questions to Choose From**

How does the story of Moses receiving the glow of God's glory and then veiling his face relate to our own tendency to hide our spiritual struggles or pretend we are closer to God than we actually are?

Mario describes how the enemy whispered lies about his ability to be a father, but God's voice broke through when he held his daughter. What lies has the enemy been whispering to you, and how can you position yourself to hear God's truth instead?

Paul's transformation from persecutor to apostle required the removal of both physical and spiritual blindness. What spiritual blindness might be preventing you from fully seeing who Jesus is and who you are in Him?

The Israelites were physically freed from Egypt but still had Egypt in their hearts, requiring 40 years of wilderness to purge it. What bondage has God already freed you from physically or circumstantially that you still carry internally?

The woman with the issue of blood had such faith that touching Jesus' garment was enough for her to be healed, while Jairus needed Jesus to come to his house. How does your faith in Jesus' power compare when facing desperate situations?

Mario stated that freedom is found only where the Spirit of the Lord is, and that any other freedom is a lie from the enemy. What areas of your life are you seeking freedom in ways that do not involve turning fully to Jesus?

Moses absorbed God's glory externally like a glow-in-the-dark toy, but Christians have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them as a permanent light source. How does understanding this difference change the way you approach your relationship with God?

Simba had to look deeper than his surface reflection to see his father, Mufasa, and remember his true identity. What keeps you from looking deeper to see how you image your Heavenly Father?

The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died, signifying open access to God's presence. Do you live as though you have free access to the Father, or do you still approach Him as though there is a barrier?

The pathway chart shows Jesus as the answer to every form of bondage, from lies to truth, sickness to wholeness, and anxiety to peace. Which pathway do you most need to walk right now, and what would it look like to actively turn toward Jesus in that area?

## 5-Day Devotional: Turning Toward Freedom

### Day 1: The Veil Removed

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

**Devotional:**

Moses encountered God and radiated His glory, but that glory faded. When we turn to Jesus, something different happens—the veil is permanently removed. Unlike Moses, who absorbed glory externally, we receive the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. This isn't a fading reflection but an eternal flame. The Israelites couldn't release Egypt from their hearts even after leaving physically.

True freedom requires more than a change of location; it demands a transfer of lordship. What veil keeps you from fully seeing Jesus today? Perhaps it's past mistakes, shame, or religious performance. When you turn toward Christ, the Spirit moves that veil, revealing both who Jesus truly is and who you were created to be. Freedom begins with simply facing Him.

**Reflection:** Ask the Lord, "What veil am I living under? What do I need freedom from?"

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### Day 2: Where the Spirit Is, There Is Freedom

**Reading:** John 8:31-36

**Devotional:**

The enemy whispers lies designed to keep us in bondage: "You can't do this. You're unlovable. You're not enough." These voices grow louder in moments when we need God's truth most. But here's the breakthrough: the enemy's attacks cannot exist in the presence of the Spirit of the Lord.

Freedom isn't found in self-help strategies or positive thinking—it's found only where the Spirit of the Lord dwells. Jesus didn't come to make bad people good; He came to make dead people alive. Every struggle you face has roots in either sin or death, and the Spirit has the power to overcome both. The pathway from lies to truth, from sickness to wholeness, from anxiety to peace—all of it—is Jesus. Any other direction is deception.

**Reflection:** What lies are you believing? Bring them into God's presence today and ask Him to replace them with truth.

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### Day 3: Transformed from Glory to Glory

**Reading:** Romans 12:1-2

**Devotional:**

God doesn't see you and immediately focus on your mistakes. When you've surrendered to Jesus, the Father looks at you and sees His Son. This is the stunning reality of transformation—we're being changed into Christ's image, from one degree of glory to another. Unlike Moses, whose glory faded, you carry an unfading light because the Holy Spirit dwells within you.

You're not reflecting light; you're emanating it from the inside out. In Eden, we were created to image God perfectly, but sin brought separation and shame. Jesus came to restore us to that original purpose. You are a shadow image of the Father as a human, but with His Spirit inside, you're being transformed into the true image of Christ. This isn't performance—it's presence. It's beholding Him and becoming like Him.

**Reflection:** Spend time simply beholding Jesus today. Ask Him to show you how He sees you.

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### Day 4: The Power of Turning

**Reading:** Acts 9:1-19 (Paul's Conversion)

**Devotional:**

Paul didn't write about veils being removed as mere illustration—he lived it. As Saul, he was a tyrannical murderer, zealous for religion but blind to truth. Jesus struck him blind to reveal his spiritual blindness. When Ananias prayed, scales literally fell from Paul's eyes—both physical and spiritual

This is the power of turning to Jesus. The woman with the issue of blood knew she only needed to touch His garment. Her faith called power from Jesus, and He called her "daughter"—giving her identity, healing, and freedom in one moment. Jairus watched his daughter die, but Jesus spoke life. It doesn't matter what your struggle is or how long you've been in bondage. When you turn to Jesus, everything changes. Freedom is waiting.

**Reflection:** What area of your life needs you to actively turn toward Jesus today? Take that step.

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## Day 5: You Are the Light of the World

**Reading:** Matthew 5:14-16

**Devotional:**

Jesus said plainly: "You are the light of the world." Not "you reflect light" but "you ARE light." This is radically different from Moses. You don't just absorb God's glory temporarily—His Spirit lives in you, illuminating you from within. The same glory that was too bright for Israel to look upon in Moses now dwells in you permanently.

You are an illuminator because He passed His flame to you. This means wherever you go, you carry freedom. Your very presence, filled with His Spirit, brings light into darkness. The veil in the temple tore from top to bottom when Jesus died, creating access for all. Now you can freely enter God's presence, receive freedom, and carry that freedom to others. You were made for this—to image the Father, to walk in freedom, and to lead others to the One who sets captives free.

**Reflection:** How can you be a light-bearer today? Who needs to see the freedom you've found in Christ?

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**Closing Prayer:** Father, thank You for removing every veil that separates us from You. Help us turn toward Jesus daily, knowing that where Your Spirit is, there is freedom. Transform us from glory to glory into the image of Christ. Make us bold carriers of Your light in a dark world. In Jesus' name, Amen.