

WEEK 7

MAY 28, 2023

# Life Group Curriculum

Words of a Dying Man: Our Fathers

1

## INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY

God Encounters:  
Share some way  
you saw God  
interact in your  
life this week.

2

## MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 5:1  
"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."

3

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 7:39-50

*"Once I was free in  
the shackles of sin:  
Free to be tempted,  
just bound to give  
in;*

*Free to be captive  
to any desire;*

*Free to eternally  
burn in hell's fire.*

*'Til Someone  
bought me and  
called me His slave:*

*Bound by  
commands I am  
free to obey;*

*Captive by beauty  
I'm free to adore--*

*Sentenced to sit at  
His feet evermore."*

*-John MacArther*

## Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you? (Work through the questions on the back from the verses we've read)
2. The forefathers missed it and we still miss it sometimes. Let's get back to basics- how would you articulate the Gospel message as recorded in the words of Jesus?
3. In Christ we have been set free, but we've been set free for a purpose. What is that purpose?
4. Though we have been freed, we still tend to shackle ourselves to the things of this world. What things do you tend to shackle yourself to?
5. If we believe that our sins are forgiven, that there is no sin that cannot be atoned for through Christ, then why aren't our lives marked with confession, repentance and forgiveness? What would it look like if these were regular practices in our families, our communities, our church?
6. How can we live out the Gospel of the Kingdom?

WORDS

*of a dying man*

# Questions to ask when reading the Bible

Sometimes when we read a passage in the Bible it can be confusing or we may not know how to best figure out what it is saying. Below are some good questions to ask when reading the Bible to help make the Bible make sense.

## 1. What stands out to me?

Note that this does not say "What does this passage mean?" Consider what stood out to you? What did you notice? What did the Holy Spirit highlight for you as you read it?

## 2. What does the text say about the character/nature of God?

The Scriptures are primarily about God so ask first what the text says about Him before moving to what it says about us, about His plan, or about anything else.

## 3. What does the text say?

Look at what the text literally says first (this may not be the intent of the text but it is important to look at it as read... at least initially).

## 4. How is it saying it?

What is the genre of the text and how should we read text in that genre?

## 5. Why does it say it that way?

Speculate about why the author chose this method of saying what they've said.

## 6. What is it trying to say?

Getting behind the Scripture, looking at its context, its original audience, its author, etc., what is the text trying to get across to the reader (both the original audience and us today?)

## 7. How does this fit into the whole of the book and the whole of Scripture?

Looking at the whole book, does what is being said jive with the whole book, with the whole of Scripture?

## 8. What questions do I have?

Do you have questions about the text? If they aren't answered in the text, are they good questions or are we asking questions that the text isn't meant to answer?

## 9. How do I feel about this teaching/text? Why do I feel that way?

What does your gut say? Are you frustrated with it? Are you trying to make it say something else than what it says? Does it make you uncomfortable? Where are these feelings coming from? Is there sin in my life I need to repent of?

## 10. What is the universal application of this text/teaching?

What are we to do with this text? Consider the original audience as well as us today.

## 11. What is my personal application?

What is God calling you to apply with what you've learned with this text?

## 12. How will I apply what it calls me to?

Make a plan to apply what God has taught you. Seek to be faithful and obedient to His leading, wherever it may go.