Life Group Discussion Guide

11/15/2026



Sermon Summary: This week, Pastor Tara Beth challenged our understanding of freedom in a culture that celebrates individual authority and self-determination. Despite having more choices and opportunities, we often find ourselves unknowingly mastered by achievement, approval, fear, resentment, and other worldly pursuits. In John 8, Jesus exposes the reality of our bondage to sin and reveals that true freedom is not something we achieve through better behavior, but something we receive through Him. Through His death and resurrection, Christ has already won the victory over sin and death, giving us a permanent place in the Father's house where our worth is no longer dependent upon what we accomplish. Like Lazarus emerging from the tomb still wrapped in his grave clothes, we may be made alive in Christ while continuing to struggle with the remnants of our old lives. Through daily repentance, remembrance of our baptism, and the encouragement of Christian community, we learn to live more fully in the freedom that is already ours in Christ.

Conversation Starter: What is something that was intended to make life easier but has ended up demanding more of our time, energy, or attention?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, quiet our hearts and help us recognize the things that compete for authority in our lives. Open our minds to Your Word and remind us that our identity rests not in what we accomplish, but in what Christ has accomplished for us. Give us the humility to examine ourselves and the courage to encourage one another in Your truth. Amen.

Read Scripture together: John 8:31–36, Psalm 124:7–8

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

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Discussion Questions:

- How does the freedom Jesus offers in John 8 differ from the freedom our culture encourages us to pursue?
- Why were Jesus' listeners offended by His offer of freedom? In what ways might we respond similarly?
- How can otherwise good things, such as achievement, financial security, or approval, gradually become masters over us?
- Pastor Tara Beth described the most dangerous form of bondage as the kind we cannot see. How can we recognize what is unknowingly ruling our lives?
- How does knowing we have a permanent place in the Father's house change our relationship with success, failure, and the expectations of others?
- Lazarus was fully alive but remained wrapped in his grave clothes. What does this illustrate about the relationship between our salvation and our ongoing struggles with sin?
- Why did Jesus invite the community to remove Lazarus' grave clothes? How can we fulfill a similar role in one another's lives?
- Deeper Dive: If Christ has already set us free, why do we still struggle with sin? How does daily repentance differ from an attempt to earn or maintain our freedom?

Memory Verse: “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
— John 8:36 (ESV)

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for accomplishing what we could never accomplish ourselves. Remind us daily that we belong to You and that sin, fear, and failure do not have the final word. Help us live in the freedom You have given us and extend Your grace to those around us. Amen.