



## FREEDOM – GALATIANS 5:13-14

### Life Group Guide 1 of 4 INFLUENCE Series

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1) Start your group with the following questions.

What are your plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? How do you remember spending it growing up?

2) Share joys and concerns. Then say this prayer together.

Lord, give us the freedom to follow you in the ways of love. Give us the strength to follow you in the ways of peace and give us opportunities to follow you in the ways of kindness. Amen.

3) This week's Bible text is Galatians 5:1, 13-14. Read the text from "The Message".

"Christ has set us free to live a free life. So, take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom."

"Never let anyone put a harness of slavery on you". When you hear these words, what comes to mind? How can others put a harness of slavery on us? How can we put a harness of slavery upon ourselves?

4) Spend sometime talking about the word freedom. What does it mean? What are you free from? What are you free for?

5) Now discuss as a group what freedom means to Paul from the Galatians text. How does the freedom Paul refer to and the freedom society refer to differ? Who in your life shows Paul's type of freedom? How do they show it? Share your stories with one another.

6) Paul ends Galatians 5 with this text:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.<sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.<sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

Paul basically is saying that "We, who belong to Christ have the Holy Spirit that is with us to guide us and direct us on our path in life.

True freedom, freedom through Christ, means that we are to serve one another, treat each other with respect, help each other, and love one another. We all have different ideas and opinions, but that doesn't mean we can't walk together. We can still find things that brings us together - that unites us as one. Life is better together.

Take this time to plan an activity or outing with your group as a way of doing life together.

7) Preview the July sermon series: Influence

7/8/2018 John 21:1-17 "*GRIT (Expressed through Love)*" (Youth Sunday: 9 and 10:30 am)

7/15/2018 Isaiah 43:1-3a "*I Have Called You by Name*" Rev. Van Blarcom (Regular worship times)

7/22/2018 I Peter 4:8-11 "*Put Me in Coach*" Rev. Hull (Regular Worship Services)

7/29/2018 II Timothy 3:10-17 "*Standing on Giant Shoulders*" Dr. Gardner (8:30, 9:45, 11 am services)

8) Announce the Adult Council events and your next Life Group or class.

July 7 – Faith and Family night at the K – Come and watch the Royal game and then enjoy a post-game concert with Michael W. Smith and rapper KJ-52.

Summer Movie Nights at Old Mission – Movies starting at 5:00

July 15 – Yankee Doodle Dandy

July 22 – The Incredibles

9) Close in prayer.