



Week 5 - Leader Guide – Christian Liberty

THE WIN

The purpose of this week's study is to understand that we have been given freedom in Christ Jesus: however the believer is responsible to accurately discern how far we should exercise our liberties. The group will work together and search the scriptures to discover the truth of Christian freedom.

2-3
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week from 1 Corinthians 10:23-31 we learned that everything is permissible, however, we must ask ourselves the questions "is it wise. Will it cause others to stumble, does it glorify God?"

Culture/legislation is constantly doing battle trying to define what is "ok" or what is "not ok"? Issues like: Is marijuana use ok? Is it ok to drink alcohol and what age? Is it ok to use foul language? Show nudity on tv? What drugs are beneficial medically but not recreationally? Gambling? Can I drive my car as fast as I want to? Who gets to marry whom? Is it ok for a 40 year old man to marry a 15 year old girl? Hopefully this discussion based on God's word will give us clarity in understanding our freedoms in Christ while exercising self control for Christ's sake.

5-10
minutes

WARM UP

ASK THIS:

- What are some examples of things that are legal but not beneficial to the Christian?

15-20
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

SAY THIS:

Someone please read 1 Corinthians 10:23-31

ASK THIS:

- How do you think 1 Corinthians 10:23-31 passage applies to us today?
- Recognizing that cultures in other countries around the world worship idols and sell goods that have been part of their religious activities, how does this passage apply to believers in these parts of the world?

SAY THIS: To be Corinthian was to participate in the social activities of the pagan temple. Those who became Christians wrestled to discern between what was permissible and what was not beneficial because of their faith in Christ.

ASK THIS:

- What are some social issues in the 1950's that would not have been beneficial for the believer during that era but could be viewed as totally permissible today?
- What are some examples of activity that would be permissible to you in some situations but not beneficial in other situations?

DO THIS:

Divide into two teams, a Freedom Team and a Self Control Team and research the following scriptures.

LEADER TIP: *In this exercise it may be interesting to give your group a choice of which group they want to go to.*

Freedom Team

- Galatians 5:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 3:17
- Romans 8:1-4
- Romans 14:1-23
- Romans 6:11-22

What are the key points about freedom?

Which passage gives your group the most clarity in understanding our Christian freedom?

Which passage is most closely related to 1 Corinthians 10:23-31?

Self Control Team

- 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- Romans 13:13-14
- Romans 14:20-21
- 2 Peter 1:5-8
- Luke 6:27-31

What are the key points about self control?

Which passage gives your group the greatest clarity in understanding self control?

Which passage is most closely related to 1 Corinthians 10:23-31?

DO THIS:

Gather the teams back together and have a representative from each group describe their findings to the whole group. Together, work towards a biblical understanding of each.

SAY THIS:

1 Corinthians 10:24 says "No one should seek their own good, but the good of the other person"

DO THIS: Have someone read the commentary notes from 1 Corinthians 10:24 in their study bible or from this link. <https://www.mystudybible.com/>

ASK THIS:

- Can someone explain in their own words the context of 1 Corinthians 10:24?
- When should we seek the good of the other person over our own good? Should this be practiced in any and every situation?
- What are some examples of how you have failed by placing your own good above others?

SAY THIS:

Someone please read 1 Corinthians 8:8-9

ASK THIS:

- What are some ways you could be a stumbling block?
- Verse 9 speaks about a weak person, what characteristics make this person weak?

SAY THIS:

1 Corinthians 10:33 says “just as I also try to please all people in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.”

ASK THIS:

- What are some possible scenarios where you might face the decision to choose between “your own good” and an opportunity for evangelism?

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

DO THIS:

- Worship as a group by listening or singing along with this Song “I’m Going Free” by Vertical Church Band. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APrxBVXF_Tw
- Celebrate together in prayer and focus on giving thanks to the Lord for the freedom we have received. Encourage all members to join in and verbalize a short sentence prayer giving Him thanks!

3-5
minutes

CLOSING THOUGHT

*“You have to stop loving and pursuing Christ in order to sin. When you are pursuing love, running toward Christ, you do not have opportunity to wonder, *Am I doing this right?* or *Did I serve enough this week?* When you are running toward Christ, you are **free** to serve, love, and give thanks without guilt, worry or fear. As long as you are running, you’re safe.”*

Francis Chan (Crazy Love)