

GOOD

MAY 17 - JUN 14

NEWS

WEEK TWO – FREEDOM

1. Where do you feel as though you have “missed the mark” in life recently, fell short, or not reached your intended goal?
2. How would you define the word sin?
3. **Read Romans 3:10-18, 23.** Why did the Apostle Paul feel it necessary to tell us “that all have sinned and fallen short” when he wrote his letter to the church in Rome? What is your reaction to the list of wrongdoings catalogued here?
4. What are the ways you have tried *on your own* to find freedom from sin in your life? How effective has it been?

There is absolutely no way to find freedom from sin if our focus is sin. How do we miss the mark so often? We focus on what NOT to do. We focus on our sin.

5. In Sunday’s message, Jerimy mentioned a quote from the C.S. Lewis novel, *The Screwtape Letters*, that says “Whenever they are attending to (God) Himself, the (enemy) is defeated, but there are ways of preventing them from doing so. The simplest is to turn their gaze away from Him and towards themselves.” Do you find any truth in this quote?
6. **Read Romans 7:15,17.** Can you relate to what Paul is describing here in his letter? Do you ever feel as though your body is at war with itself...your earthly flesh and desires battling against your spiritual nature? Where have your earthly weaknesses been a stumbling block to hold back your God given talents or strengths?

What is the answer? How do we ever find freedom? We are set free by making Jesus our FOCUS, by making HIM our target. Our target shouldn’t be avoiding sin. It should be a single minded focus on the one who rescued us from sin, JESUS. Freedom from sin IS Jesus Christ Himself.

7. Where has your focus been up until now? Has it been more on your past sins & avoiding sinning in the future or on something else? How might changing your focal point to be Jesus, instead of your sin, change your actions?

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WATCH THE VIDEO

8. Read the following Bible passages & discuss as a group:

Colossians 3:1-2

Romans 6:1-7

Romans 6:21-23

Philippians 3:12-14

*Slave can be translated more accurately as *servant* in above verses

NEXT STEPS

Turn your focus away from your sins, and, instead, make following JESUS your target. This is the GOOD NEWS of how you can find FREEDOM from sin.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Day 1: Matthew 26:41

Day 2: Philippians 3:1-11

Day 3: Philippians 3:12-21

Day 4: Romans 6:1-7

Day 5: Romans 6:8-14

Day 6: Romans 6:15-23

Day 7: Colossians 3:1-4