



STUDY GUIDE

July 17, 2022

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Free Me
Free to Free Others
Bryan Pope

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Share something that you are hopeful for and/or excited about in the near future.

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for the incredible gift of Jesus and the freedom that we have in Him. Help us to never take that for granted. Show us how to live our lives each and every day with humble gratitude for who You are and what You've done for us and give us opportunities to use our freedom to point people to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started:

- What are some of the things that Jesus has set you free from in your own life? (Think specifically about areas where you were in bondage before, and now you are experiencing greater freedom because of your relationship with Him.)

“Ultimately the way I act is a reflection of what it is I believe about Jesus. If I act in a way that causes someone to question my kindness, my intentions, my compassion, then I will never, and I don't say that lightly, **never** get a chance to even introduce them to the reason that I have freedom, let alone have them interact with me. And here is the thing, whether you are a follower of Jesus or not, people are watching you, your kids are watching you, your coworkers are watching you, your family is watching you and how you act— what you do with your freedom— influences them, either positively or negatively. And if you do believe that Jesus died and was raised from the dead to save you then you don't need a title or position to act on and reflect the goodness of God; it is expected of you. It should be something that you desire to do to please God and help others find the fullest life possible in a relationship with him.” - Pastor Bryan Pope

Read Matthew 5:16 and Colossians 4:5-6.

- Share a time when someone noticed your actions (not necessarily your words), and how that opened the door for a conversation about Jesus or your faith.
- Reflecting on Colossians 4:5-6, do you feel like you effectively make the most of every opportunity? What do you think the Apostle Paul means to have your conversation “full of grace and seasoned with salt”? (What might be an example.)

“I think one of the most—if not the most—powerful ways to lead others to freedom is to serve them. No matter where you are right now, whether you are at one of our physical campus, or you are away on vacation or at home joining us online, and yes even you our brothers in the Nottoway correctional facility, right there around you or very close to you are people who need someone to show up for them. There are needs that we can fulfill and it doesn't have to be a project, a local Do Good effort, or even a mission trip, even though all of those things are something you should consider making part of your life. The service I am talking about is a way of living; it is a foundational part of our freedom. The apostle Paul said when we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone. So we must be diligent and aware of the needs around us. “- Pastor Bryan Pope

Read Colossians 3:17, Galatians 5:13 and Galatians 6:10.

- How well do you do in terms of being aware of the needs of others? Do you intentionally seek out opportunities to help and serve others?
- Looking at the opportunities currently offered at PCC (on the website) or in your community or circle of influence, what is one practical step you can take this summer to serve God by serving others?

Watch and Discuss Video: (Follow up videos paused for the summer)

Reflect and Commit:

“You're Free, and now you have the power to help free someone else, God can and will use you. You may not feel like you have the perfect words, but you are a living story, one that is still being written. And one of the highest praises, the most powerful expressions of gratitude for the freedom God gave us through Jesus, is inviting others to join you in that freedom. Always be ready to share the reason for your hope, the reason that you feel free. And with gratitude for all that he has done for us, we can show others in our actions, our service, and our stories that that same freedom is right there in front of them, it's theirs, that our hope can be theirs too.” - Pastor Bryan Pope

Read 1 Peter 3:15 and John 8:36.

- When is the last time you had a spiritual conversation with someone? Can you share the time, the place, and the circumstances?
- What are some of the obstacles to sharing the story of what God has done in your life? How might you overcome these obstacles?
- Pastor Bryan challenged us to be prepared to share the hope we have by asking ourselves every day, “What am I thankful for?” Do you make a habit of reflecting on this daily? If not, what can you do to begin putting this into practice?

“The freedom we have is like a light meant to shine on others, and when we do this well then it is God that gets the glory. When we act like we are free, when we serve like we are free, the world around us sees something different about us before we speak one word. If we do this right people will wonder why we are the way we are, why it seems that in a world struggling for hope we seem to have a multitude of it.” - Pastor Bryan Pope

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for all you have done in our lives and all that you continue to do. Help us to invite others to join in the freedom that we have experienced and to be ready to share the reason for our hope by our actions, by our service, and by telling our story. Thank you for the privilege of joining You in the transformational work that You are doing in lives all around us. In Jesus' name. Amen.