

## LEADER PREP

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize God's boundaries are a good thing.

### MAIN POINT

**Living out the words of the Bible leads to more freedom, not less.**

### MAIN SCRIPTURE

Psalms 119:14-16 + James 1:25

### THINK ABOUT THIS

It's important not just to know the Bible but to live it out. Today we are talking about the FREEDOM found in God's Biblical boundaries. No one is a fan of rules or boundaries; we don't want anyone to tell us how to live - even if it is God. But what if boundaries and rules were actually for our good? And what if we saw them that way? That would be a game changer in helping us live godly lives! Before leading this weekend, take some time in prayer to reflect on and wrestle with our main point: Do you really think living out the words of the Bible leads to more freedom, not less, in your own life? Journal and praise God for times you've seen this in your life. Journal and pray over ways you may need to trust God and make a change to live out His words in your own life. If you decide to make a big change then ask people on your team to encourage you and pray for you!

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### GET THEM TALKING

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- What are some rules you find super annoying?
- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.

### INTO THE WORD

**READ PSALM 119:14-16, JAMES 1:25 and discuss:**

1. How can a law, or rule, be a good thing? What are some examples? (*i.e. Not running at the pool can save us from slipping and getting hurt.*)
2. Can you think of a time in your life when doing what seemed to bring freedom really led to a consequence that limited freedom?
3. Do you think the Bible gives you more freedom? Why or why not?
4. What does the verse say God will bless us for? Why do you think that is?

**Let's read one example about of a Biblical rule and talk about it. READ MATTHEW 5:23-24:**

1. If you chose not to forgive someone, what might be the long term consequences?
2. How can forgiving someone give us freedom?
3. What's another scripture that you are having trouble following right now?
4. How could following this Scripture bring you freedom in the long run?

### NEXT STEP

Remind your students of the Bible devotional reading and ask them how it's going. Invite new students to read the Bible every day this week with your group. If someone is behind or just starting, encourage them it's not too late to join in for the final week. Remind them the readings are short, and they can do it!

### PRAYER GUIDE

We are going to close in prayer.  
Anyone have any prayer requests?

## MAIN SCRIPTURES

Scripture is provided for convenience, but we prefer you and your students open your Bibles to read the Scripture. This helps your students learn how to find Scripture in their Bibles and where these verses are in the larger context of God's Word.

### PSALM 119:14-16 (NIV)

"I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. <sup>15</sup> I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. <sup>16</sup> I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word."

### JAMES 1:25 (NIV)

"But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

### MATTHEW 5:23-24 (NIV)

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."

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## LEADER CORNER + NOTES