



LIFEGROUPS

Message: *Break the Chains*

Scripture: *John 8:36*

Date: December 29-30, 2018

—[LET'S START]—

At the beginning of her sermon, Pastor Heather talked about family gatherings where her nieces and nephews would try to escape her grip in a game called "Breaking Free." We've just come through a season where families gather together to celebrate the holidays. What are some of your favorite family traditions?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Read John 8:31-36. Why do you think the Jews found Jesus' teaching about being slaves to sin so difficult to swallow?
2. How does this slavery to sin concept play out in your life?
3. Pastor Heather spoke about Sin with a lowercase "s" and sin with an uppercase "S." What did she mean by this delineation? How did her illustration with Ben and the chains strike you?
4. Martin Luther said, "The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands." What are some examples of ways that Christians commonly try to deal with sin by taking matters into our own hands?
5. Read John 14:6. What is the significance of this verse? How do you think that a Jewish person would have understood Jesus' words in this verse? What does this verse teach us about the sufficiency of Christ?
6. Matt Skinner says, "To take seriously Jesus' claims about setting us free is to take seriously the proposition that we are all enslaved to powers beyond our ability to master." Why is this so difficult for us to admit?
7. Heather said that "guilt is feeling bad about what you did. Shame is feeling bad about who you are." How can we overcome the attacks of our enemy and live in the truth of who Christ says that we are?

—[LET'S ACT]—

At the end of her sermon, Pastor Heather talked about the importance of replacing Satan's lies about who we are with God's truth. As a group, take some time to remind each other about the fact that you are loved, saved, redeemed, forgiven, children of God and free. Take 1-2 minutes with each person in the group to share how you see Jesus in them.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- This week's sermon focused on our sinful natures and the need that we all have for Jesus.
- Below is an outline of this week's sermon:
 - The Gospel of John is where we find the seven "I Am" statements of Jesus. He is:
 - The Bread of Life
 - The Light of the World
 - The Door
 - The Good Shepherd
 - The Resurrection and the Life
 - The Way, the Truth and the Light
 - The Vine
 - Jesus is like Moses because He came to deliver people from their sins and spiritual bondage. John did a call back to the "I AM" in Exodus – showing that the I AM was now physically standing right in front of people!
 - The Jews of Jesus' day had difficulty seeing themselves as slaves to anyone, let alone sin. Which is ironic as the Romans were controlling much of their lives. In our culture today, we have a hard time acknowledging that we are enslaved as well.
 - In our lives we try to deal with the day-to-day sins through a number of different means without every dealing with the root problem of our sin nature.
 - Martin Luther said, "The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands."
 - It is only through Jesus that we can truly be set free from sin.
 - Satan makes sin attractive. Alluring. At first, it seems harmless. Initially, it might even feel good, if we're honest. Then, when we engage with that alluring sin, Satan stands over us, as the accuser, telling us we're no good.
 - Guilt is feeling bad about what you did. Shame is feeling bad about who you are. This was never God's intention. Resist Satan's lies about who you are and replace them with the truth of God:
 - I am loved. I am saved. I am redeemed. I am forgiven. I am a child of God. I am free.

—[NOTES]—
