



Set Free!

Focus By the authority of Jesus Christ, every believer can be set free from spiritual bondage. God has given us keys on how to be set free.

Fun What was your greatest joy and your greatest challenge in 2013?

Review Key Scripture: Luke 15:11–32

The parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us four keys to being set free:

- *Recognize that you need help.*
The Prodigal Son had squandered his wealth. He “came to his senses” and returned to his father’s home to ask for help. In the same way, we can only get free when we admit that we have a problem.
- *Repent to God and to others.* (Matthew 5:23–24; James 5:16)
To repent means to change our minds about sin, about who God is and about who He created us to be. Repentance is a lifelong process. When we repent to others, it brings our sin out of darkness (where Satan works) and into the light.
- *Renounce the lies of Satan.*
Every bondage begins with a lie. Often, Satan lies to us about our identity.
- *Receive the gifts of the Father.* (Isaiah 61:10; Luke 10:19; Acts 1:8)
We have the righteousness of Christ. We have been given authority over all the power of the enemy. We have the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us.

Group Dynamics Idea Regularly invite new people to your group. Encourage group members to do the same. Many people are looking for a place to connect with others and grow deeper in their faith. This will also keep your group healthy as it is focused on reaching out to others.

Discuss

1. Which of the two sons do you most identify with in the parable?
2. Why do we have trouble admitting we're in bondage?
3. Read James 5:16. Confessing our sins to another person is humbling and can be painful. Have you ever experienced the healing that comes from doing this? If you are comfortable, tell your story to the group. (It's okay to speak in general terms without sharing details!)
4. What are some of the lies that Satan tells us about who we are? In practical terms, how do we renounce those lies?
5. There is beautiful imagery in a robe of righteousness, a ring of authority and shoes of power (the Holy Spirit). How do these three gifts help us to be set free?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- There is freedom in admitting we need help.
- There is healing in confessing our sins to others.
- There are lies we must renounce.
- God has given us righteousness, authority and the Holy Spirit to help us walk in freedom.

Prayer

Father, I ask You to forgive me for all of my sins. Lord, I repent of (name the things God's putting on your heart). I ask You to release me from every bondage, in Jesus' name. I take authority over every evil spirit and command it to go, in Jesus' name. In every place that evil spirits have left me, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Begin to ask God to show you emerging leaders in your group. He may be preparing them for teaching, mentoring, group leadership or something else. Ask Him to show you how you can encourage that gift of leadership in them.