

“Truth and Freedom”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

Perhaps one of my favorite verses in scripture—certainly in my top ten is **John 8:31-32** “*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*”

One of the powerful connections this passage makes is between “truth” and “freedom”. Jesus follows that with the relationship between himself and truth. His claim is that if you receive and dwell in what He has to say, you will receive truth (reality) about life and God and all things and in this truth (reality) you will find freedom. It is also great to note that Jesus makes this statement in the context of Him claiming to be the “Light of the World”!

It is as if He is saying there is a direct relationship between Light, Truth and Freedom! The Light delivers the Truth and the Truth delivers the Freedom! In the same way the negative is also true. The Darkness delivers Deception and Deception delivers Bondage!

The practical application of this reality is almost endless. We have all been in situations where someone refused to acknowledge the truth about themselves or their actions and wound up digging a deeper hole for themselves. Look at Adam in the Genesis account. He refused to confess the truth about his actions and placed his marriage and the rest of the human race in untold bondage.

Please spend some time—maybe ten minutes—of silence just meditating on these two verses. As you meditate ask God, “What are you saying to me?” “What do you want me to get out of this reality on this day?”. Then spend some time discussing these verses and the applications that God brought to your mind. There are many!

Sometimes the application we sense concerning truth is those truths that convict, point out sin or call forth confessions and repentance. That is certainly one valuable area of application and very necessary. In addition, we also miss out on freedom because truth that brings hope and comfort is not believed and received. We sometimes stay with our anxiety and fear instead of surrendering to truth and receiving freedom!

Discuss what truths are expressed in the following verses and the freedom possible if that truth is received.

Philippians 4:4-7

1 Peter 5:5-9

“I Am.... The Light of the World”

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - February 28–March 5

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: John 8:12-20

Tuesday: John 8:21-30

Wednesday: John 8:31-38

Thursday: John 8:39-47

Friday: John 8:48-59

Saturday: 1 John 1:1-7