



Welcome to Week One of Freedom Groups!

1. Begin your meeting in prayer and then watch the chapter one video with Pastor David Lindell. The fill-in-the blanks in your Freedom book coincide with the video. Therefore, everyone will want to have their books open and ready while watching the video to capture the fill in the blanks.
2. **Leaders Resource Page** - The weekly videos are found on the Leaders Resource Page. You will use a lap-top, smart TV, or a device that accesses the internet to play the videos for your group. We ask that you not send the link to your members as this resource is designed for leaders only. Leaders may access the videos through the APP on the Life Groups icon or by going directly to: **Jamesriver.church/lg-resources**
3. As a leader, the most important thing that you can do is to include prayer in all things, so remember to open and close each meeting in prayer!
4. **Additional Freedom Books** - If you haven't already gotten your Freedom books, please contact the Life Groups Office to arrange pick up for the number of books needed for your group. It would be good to get one or two extras, as people are continuing to join this week. (Leaders have the same book as the members.) Plan to distribute the books during this week's meeting.
5. Remember to share the vision of Freedom Groups and talk about the Freedom Conference. (Be encouraging the Freedom Conference throughout the semester.)
6. At the end of every meeting, please take attendance and share testimonies. You can access your roster, take attendance, and share testimonies on the Leaders Resource Page.

Outline for this week's group:

- Welcome
- Leaders Take Attendance
- Prayer
- Video
- Group Discussion
- Close in Prayer
- Leaders Submit Testimonies

We are so excited for all the Lord will do in and through Freedom Groups. It's going to be an amazing week!

Chapter One Leader Guide

Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground- trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden, he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden-except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." GENESIS 2:8-9, 16-17 NLT

What is your approach to God?

The Tree of Life we find in the story of Adam and Eve is a picture of the life found in Christ and the two trees function as symbols for the way each person chooses to approach God.

Tree of Life - Comes from a mindset that we just need to fall in love with Jesus.

- Jesus has done all that is needed
- He already loves you
- We obey out of delight

Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil - Approaches God with the viewpoint that He is harsh, withholding, angry, and that we have to:

- Do more
- Do things to gain God's approval
- Obey out of duty

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

- What has your approach to God been?

- For those that lean towards performance-based thinking, what are some practical things you can do to help redirect that?
- How are you going to run towards life?

APPLICATION:

The lesson for chapter 2 goes more in depth on the two trees. Encourage your participants to pay attention over the next week to how they might be approaching God and ask them to come prepared to share some examples next week.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Pray that any incorrect views of God will be revealed to your participants and that they will be able to see Him as a loving Father who has already done all that is needed.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in which participants are viewing God and to see Him for who He really is.