

FREEDOM GROUPS

Chapter Eleven Leader Guide

In a wealthy home, some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 2:20-21 NLT

REMINDER:

- Please take a moment this week and have everyone register for the Freedom Conference on April 17th – 18th. Leaders, please reach out to Megan George if there are financial concerns that would impact someone's ability to attend.

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Freedom Conference Registration

OVERVIEW:

Every person is at a different place in his or her walk with Christ. No two stories are the same, and no one starts out as silver or gold; it is a process. If you're unsatisfied with where you are in the process, God is eager to take you to the next level. He is the One who prepares us, refines us, and makes us honorable. You are not defined or limited by your past. He says in His Word that He makes all things brand new (2 Corinthians 5:17), and He wants to help you become a vessel of honor.

Remember, justification is an event that takes place when we are saved. When Jesus becomes our Savior, at that very moment, every sin of our past is wiped clean.

Sanctification, however, is not an event— it's a process. It's a journey through which God molds and transforms our character.

It may surprise you to discover that the highest level of our journey as Christians is servanthood. Our greatest goal as Christians is to fulfill the purpose for which God created us, and that requires us to become His servants. There are three steps we can take to become vessels of honor: offer our bodies, renew our minds, and surrender our wills. When we are intentional to give God our bodies each day, we are able to make conscious decisions to avoid sin. Sin functions in the body, but the mind controls the body. Sin begins in the mind, which is why it is so important to renew our minds with the Word of God. The enemy's goal is to plant thoughts in our mind that are contrary to God's thoughts.

Peace can reign and rule in our hearts when we align our thoughts with the truth of God's Word. We know that the body carries out sin, and the mind controls the body, but the will controls the mind. As we surrender our will to God, His perfect will becomes the motivation of our lives.

Being useful to the Kingdom is the greatest honor of our lives, but it comes at a price. When we begin to walk in our purpose, we will get the attention of the enemy. We should anticipate his attacks and take them as a sign of encouragement. We are a threat to his plan to keep the world in darkness. When attacks come, remember, you belong to God and the enemy cannot change that. We need to remember the truth that "He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4) so we can stand against temptation. To do so, we must keep the dialogue going with God. Open communication keeps us safe and aware. If we find ourselves in bondage, we need to confess and repent of our sin, cast off the powers of darkness in our lives, and speak life over ourselves by declaring an accurate view of how God sees us.

Though becoming a vessel of honor may seem like an overwhelming process, intentional time with God every day will help you become useful for the Kingdom, allowing you to shine a powerful light that drives away darkness.

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

- What are some practical ways you can renew your mind to the Word of God so you can silence the voice of the enemy?
- What are some of the areas in your life in which Satan tends to have a foothold (areas might include rejection, abuse, self-hatred/unworthiness, depression, pride, unforgiveness, greed, guilt/shame, lust/sexual impurity, control, anger, fear)?

Remind your participants to confess, repent, cast off the enemy's hold in these areas, and speak truths from Scripture over themselves so they can walk in freedom.

- What are some areas in the small day-to-day things you can be more faithful?

APPLICATION:

Here is an idea to help illustrate the idea of vessels of honor.

- Use the visual aids of a paper plate and a china plate, talking about the difference between the two.
- Ask your participants: In what kind of environments is each plate used? What kinds of food do each hold? What kind of plate do you want to be?
- We can all be fine china. The choice is ours!

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's discernment and guidance in areas we need to find freedom.
- Pray that our eyes are opened to any footholds of the enemy and that we will be bold in standing up to the enemy regarding these areas.



Conference Details:

- Friday Night, April 17th – Saturday, April 18th
- James River Church South Campus – Youth Venue

Conference Schedule:

- Friday Night

- 6:00pm – Check-in / Coffee Reception
 - 6:30pm – Opening Session
- Saturday
 - 8:00am – Check-in / Continental Breakfast
 - 9:00am –1:30pm – Morning Sessions / Breakfast & Lunch included