



FREEDOM IN CHRIST

1. Live Free in Christ

If you haven't taken the steps/confessed hidden sin, do so.

What stronghold busters are you currently working on?

2. Be Open for God to Use You

Watch for opportunities to encourage someone in their "new creation" identity.

3. Pray for Spiritual Eyes to be Opened

We are in a war and the weapons of our warfare are spiritual.

Fight back with the word and prayer.

4. Encourage Discussion

Make it be about Jesus and what he is up to in their lives.

Ask questions, rather than make statements.

Small Group Leader Training

Stronghold-Busting

Work out the lie you have been believing.

This is any way you have learned to think that is not in line with what God says in the Bible. Ignore what you feel because, by definition, the lie will feel true.

Say what effect believing the lie has had in your life.

Imagine how different your life would be if you did not believe this. What would you be able to do that you currently don't do?

Find as many Bible verses as you can that say what is actually true and write them down.

If there are a lot of verses, pick the top five to seven.

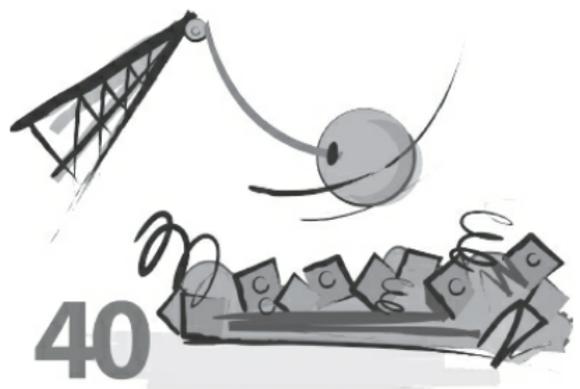
Write a declaration. Base it on this formula:

“I renounce the lie that . . . , I announce the truth that”

If you prefer, you could use alternative language such as “I reject the lie that . . . , I embrace the truth that” or “I say no to the lie that . . . , I say yes to

Read the Bible verses and say the declaration out loud every day for 40 days.

Remember that for a long time, the verses and the declaration will not feel true. Remind yourself that God is the Truth and that if He has said it, it really is true. And it's not just true for other people, it's true for you! You can use the app to remind you to make your declaration and you can put your stronghold buster in the app.



THEIR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

They Are Significant: *They are no longer worthless, inadequate, helpless or hopeless. In Christ they are deeply significant and special.*

God says:

[Matthew 5:13,14](#) They are the salt of the earth and the light of the world

[John 15:5](#) They are a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.

[John 15:16](#) They have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

[Acts 1:8](#) They are a personal, Spirit-empowered witness of Christ.

[1 Corinthians 3:16](#) They are God's temple.

[2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#) They are a minister of reconciliation for God.

[2 Corinthians 6:1](#) They are God's fellow worker

[Ephesians 2:6](#) They are seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.

[Ephesians 2:10](#) They are God's workmanship.

[Ephesians 3:12](#) They may approach God with freedom and confidence.

[Philippians 4:13](#) They can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

They are Secure: *They are no longer guilty, unprotected, alone or abandoned. In Christ They are totally secure. God says:*

[Romans 8:1-2](#) They are free forever from condemnation.

[Romans 8:28](#) They are assured that all things work together for good.

[Romans 8:31-34](#) They are free from any condemnation brought against me.

[Romans 8:35-39](#) They cannot be separated from the love of God.

[2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#) They have been established anointed and sealed by God.

[Philippians 1:6](#) They are confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.

[Philippians 3:20](#) They are a citizen of heaven.

[Colossians 3:1-4](#) They are hidden with Christ in God.

[2 Tim. 1:7](#) They have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

[Hebrews 4:16](#) They can find grace and mercy to help in time of need.

[1 John 5:18](#) They are born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

They are Accepted: *They are no longer rejected, unloved or dirty. In Christ They are completely accepted. God says:*

[John 1:12](#) They are God's child.

[John 15:15](#) They are Christ's Friend

[Romans 5:1](#) They have been justified.

[1 Corinthians 6:17](#) They are united with the Lord, and They are one with Him in spirit.

[1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#) They have been bought with a price. I belong to God.

[1 Corinthians 12:27](#) They are a member of Christ's body.

[Ephesians 1:1](#) They are a saint, a holy one.

[Ephesians 1:5](#) They have been adopted as His child.

[Ephesians 2:18](#) They have direct access through God through the Holy Spirit.

[Colossians 1:13-14](#) They have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

[Colossians 2:9-10](#) They are complete in Christ.

PRAYER

Prayer is the key to the success of your Freedom in Christ Ministry. There is not spiritual progress without prayer. The personal prayer below can be used in preparation for ministry based on God's Word, and it's the responsibility of each of us to examine ourselves before God each time we lead the course, facilitate a small group, or lead someone in a freedom appointment. We need to confess any sin that could prevent us from being in fellowship with God. In Ephesians 6, we are encouraged to stand firm in the armor of God, and to continually pray for the saints - that's each other - particularly those attending the course.

PERSONAL PRAYER FOR FREEDOM MINISTRY

Dear Heavenly Father, You are the only one true and living God, worthy of all honor, praise and glory. You are a Tower of salvation, a Shield to all who trust in You, a Strong Fortress, my Refuge and my Deliverer. I stand in the truth that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to the resurrected Christ, and because I am in Christ, I share that authority in order to make disciples and set captives free.

You are alert and active, watching over Your Word to see that it is fulfilled, and as I declare Your Word in Your strength and power, create in me a pure heart and fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Cleanse me from the sins I've committed, by the blood of Jesus. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight. I ask that You strengthen my inner being, and that Your peace may reign in my heart. I declare that I am complete in You, and that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ.

I take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God and ask that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel, the unsearchable riches of Christ. I declare that I have a spirit of power and love; a sound mind and the Word of Christ dwells in me richly. I have been sanctified by Your Word of Truth. I declare that because I have made You my dwelling place, no evil shall come upon me. Your promise is that You will give Your angels charge over me, and You will keep me in all my ways. I call forth the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout my home, my family, my work and all I do within the ministry of Freedom In Christ in my church.

**I pray all of this in the Name of Jesus Christ, with all glory and honor and thanks to Him.
Amen**

2 Sam 22; Jer 1:12; Ps 51; Ps 19:14; Eph 3: 8,16; Eph 6:17; 2 Tim 1:7; Col. 3:16; John 17:17; 1 John 2:27; Ps. 91:9-11

"Through God's mercy we have this ministry.....in jars of clay, to show that this all-surpassing power is from God, and not from us" (2 Cor 4 :1,7)

Encouraging Discussion

Prepare Well:

- Pray for your small group members by name. Ask God to bring freedom in Christ.
- Read the section in your book covering that week's topic.
- Engage with the "Pause for Thought" questions personally. Imagine yourself answering them.
- Plant seeds of hope in your own heart. Expect participants to find freedom in Christ.

Lead Well:

- Listen and observe. Not all participants are believers. Not all know the Bible. Define terms.
- Elevate Jesus and them. Think "guide on the side," not "sage on the stage."
- Act with honesty and show that you care.
- Demonstrate how to be vulnerable. Share a short version of your freedom story.

Encourage Dialogue:

- Success = getting people to talk.
- Participate as an equal. Explain that you are an encourager, not a professional counselor.
- Ask for their thoughts. Ask for their take-aways. Bring clarity to the big ideas only when needed.
- Remain uncomfortably silent. Wait 8 seconds after a question. 8 seconds will seem like forever.
- Kindle the conversation. Keep it going. Be like Jesus – ask good questions.

Deal with Dysfunction:

- Direct the orchestra that is the conversation. Make sure no one "instrument" dominates.
- Establish ground rules (see Freedom Ground Rules).
- Appropriate your influence. Encourage during and after. Use phrases that invite others to speak. Create space for others to talk.
- Lean on the Freedom Leaders. Temporarily set aside dysfunction, but get help afterwards.

Freedom Group Ground Rules

Read the following small group characteristics to your group with the goal of establishing your small group as a safe place. Revisit these from time to time as it will help your group.

Establishing expectations for group behavior is often all that it takes for a group to function well.

1. Successful small groups have a balance of each person getting to contribute and share without any one person dominating the group's time and attention. So, don't talk too little and don't talk too much.
2. Avoid the temptation to try to fix one another. Safe and successful small groups are characterized by support rather than advice-giving. Trying to "fix" someone else is usually a sign that we don't want to deal with our own stuff. Make "I" statements and avoid using "You".
3. Don't fall into the temptation to focus on others who need these truths. Focus on your own individual thoughts and feelings as you share with the group.
4. Never use your sharing as an opportunity to harm someone else.
5. Scripture calls us to refrain from gossip. Please operate under the direction of God's Word in the handling of information shared around the table. We want everyone to feel safe to share and to be vulnerable.