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## CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- How would you define "abide?"
- What has been your experience with the Bible?
- Discipleship Check-In

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## INTRODUCTION

To know Jesus is to know his word. When we know his word we are set free. There are many different definitions of freedom, but for Jesus and those who follow him it means no longer being slaves to sin, submitting to his word and seeing it as beautiful. In this passage, Jesus is interacting with people who have come to believe in him, but are struggling with what it means to be free. Let's listen to Jesus' words today with fresh ears and hope that he might lead each of us to greater freedom.

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## NO LONGER SLAVES TO SIN

READ: John 8:32-38

DISCUSS: In this passage the Jews believed that freedom from sin came by being obedient to God's law, but Jesus is telling them that true freedom from sin comes from knowing him. Where in your life do you trust in obedience to free you from sin?

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## SEEING THE BEAUTY OF THE WORD

READ: John 8:39-48

DISCUSS: The Jews in this passage are unable to hear God's word because they don't know Jesus and his word. This is because of the deception of Satan. Satan has deceived them, just like Adam and Eve, by telling them that, "If you obey God, you're missing out. God doesn't have your best in mind." We need to be able to recognize these lies in our own life. This skill of recognition comes from knowing Jesus and seeing his word as beautiful. When you read commandments in Scripture how do you react to them? How do you react when Satan tries to deceive you and tell you God doesn't have your best in mind?

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## REFLECT & APPLY

DISCUSS: The words of Christ and the word about Christ will set us free. It will give us the power to debunk the lies of the enemy. It fill us with the truth that Jesus was nailed to the cross for our sake. It shows us that his commandments aren't restrictions, but actually lead to freedom and flourishing. In order to experience the word in this way we need to come up with a plan. How can you be intentional about being in and around the word more often?

Examples: Surround yourself with people who know the word. Create a plan for when and where you will read the word. Think through when you sin and fail how are you going to get choose to believe truth about the gospel and yourself.

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## PRAY

Praise the Father who has revealed himself to us through his word. Praise Jesus for saving us from sin so we can be truly free. Praise the Spirit who gives us the knowledge and wisdom to be able to understand the word. Pray that you would fall more in love with Jesus and the word, which would lead to greater freedom in your own life.

### Discipleship Check-In

- Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?