

<p>Theme & Passage(s)</p>	<p>S A C R E D God's gift of freedom Genesis 2: 16-17, 3: 1-2; John 8: 34-36; Romans 8: 1-4; 2 Corinthians 3: 17; Galatians 5: 1</p>
<p>Intro</p>	<p>This is a huge subject which deserves exploring over several sessions. There was a very limited talk on a very small aspect this Sunday so please use the readings and questions to think about issues related to what is going on in group members' lives at this time.</p>
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Why not play the song "Imagine" by John Lennon while you're sharing over coffee? It's a secular vision of freedom and peace e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOgFZfRVaww Let this lead into worship of God who gives us true freedom</p>
<p>Worship</p>	<p>One aspect of freedom is our creativity and the many ways we can engage in worshipping God. Don't try and organise this time but allow everyone to bring their own song, scripture, story in worship. You might like to offer a range of ways to open up our hearts to worship .e.g. pictures, items from the natural world, scents, a candle and allow a time of quiet reflection. Finish your time by reading Isaiah 61:1-3.</p>
<p>Word/ Read & Reflect</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking at the creation story God gives freedom to our human parents within certain boundaries. What challenges do we face in our culture in working out where God's boundaries might be? How can we support each other in making choices that respect these boundaries? 2. How easy is it to become slaves to our habits? We think about addictions as drugs, alcohol, gambling etc. But are there thought and behaviour patterns which become addictive? How do we work out what John 8:36 means in helping us to overcome such issues? 3. 2Cor 3:17 - this letter is addressed to a church so how do we recognise the freedom of the Spirit working amongst us? In the next verse Paul talks about "being transformed ... from one degree of glory to another". Could my "freedom" have the opposite effect for others? How do we hold onto all being transformed? 4. Gal 5:1 is a cri du coeur from Paul as he sees his young church getting enslaved again to the legalism of circumcision. In what ways can legalistic demands be imposed on churches? How can we help those who have suffered from spiritual abuse?
<p>Working it out</p>	<p>Freedom can be internal or external. Are there issues to work out in your own life which have enslaved you? Alternatively are you as an individual or a group being called to come alongside those who have lost their freedom e.g. through debt, being trafficked, in prison</p>