

Title: Three Freedoms in Grace // **Scripture:** Acts 15:36-16:24

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

The language of freedom saturates Scripture, and as we see in our reading of Acts 15-16 this week, God's grace brings three unexpected freedoms, unique to life in His Kingdom: freedom to fail, to let down appearances, and to be truly free.

THE MAIN THOUGHT keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion

You are free; through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): What kept compelling Paul to move on to the next place/people group? (1 Timothy 1:15) What do we see them do when doors are closed? What measure of herself did Lydia want the men to use? (16:15)

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): In my failed relationships or endeavors, where do I see God's grace? What is my prayer when doors close for me? How does Lydia inspire me to let down appearances? Even if I know the right answers, is there a darkness that attempts to suffocate God's grace in my life?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): Our response to the gospel is one of trust. If we trust the gospel, how does it affect the way we see and extend grace to others?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Exercise *10 minutes*

Read Acts 13:38-39 and John 8:36 together. Ask God to show you areas where you're struggling with sin. Hear God's word of freedom to you in this moment. His goodness overwhelms our failures; the power of His name brings wholeness.

Change IN // Group Activity *15 minutes*

Have each person identify with one of the freedoms Jon spoke about: freedom to fail, to let down appearances, or to be truly free. Pray with each other to step more fully into them. Jon talked about accountability as an antidote to anonymity in our struggle with sin. Use this time to come clean with each other, confessing struggles and encouraging one another in the grace of God.

Change OUT // Life Application Assignment *5 minutes*

Follow up on last week's assignment. Where are you choosing to bring the freedom of Jesus to those around you? This week use Galatians 5:13 as inspiration as you plan how to serve one another.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.