

Freedom in Christ



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

ball of smooth string; scissors—several pairs; pens with colored ink; a mirror; a piece of cardboard or a stiff piece of paper to hide people's hands as they draw; thin white card and construction paper; glue sticks or double-sided sticky tape; thin card cut into strips 2–3cm x 28–30cm; rolls of adhesive tape; blunt-ended scissors; shredder or shredding scissors

Surveying the Source

Rom. 8:1–17.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Know that the Trinity is working together for their spiritual freedom.
- ▶ Feel the exhilarating release that comes from the true freedom God offers

us through Jesus.

- ▶ Invite God to release them from something that is hampering their sense of freedom.

Preparing to Lead

I heard a loud metallic crash outside my office window and looked up quickly to see if there had been an accident. I saw a man with a large hammer calmly smashing a police car parked on the opposite side of the road. He was arrested

without any sign of a struggle. He had been released from prison a few weeks earlier. Now he was cold and lonely, and Christmas was coming. For him, freedom was miserable. The happiest place for him was in prison with his friends.

Getting Started

A. Divide into pairs and have each pair consider one of the following people: (1) a refugee who has escaped from war with two bags of belongings; (2) a person who has just given up smoking; (3) a pastor who has been imprisoned for talking about God's love; (4) a toddler in a fenced yard; (5) a Christian businessman starting his first business; (6) a mother who has just had a baby; (7) God; (8) a yachtsman sailing single-handed; (9) add other situations to suit your context.

Ask the pairs: "What has your character been released from, and what restrictions do they still have?"

B. Pass out the reproducible activity (p. 39). Seat someone at the table with a copy of the activity and a pen with colored ink. Stand a mirror in front of them, and have someone hold a piece of cardboard or stiff piece of paper up over their hands so they will have to use the mirror image to see where they are "driving."

Instruct the person to draw a straight line down the middle of the "road." It will be difficult! Have as many students do this activity as time allows. Then discuss the feeling of being unable to control the direction of your life.

Delving Into the Word

A. Take a large sheet of flipchart paper and divide it into two columns: "Living a life ruled by the Holy Spirit" and "Living

a life ruled by Self."

Divide into small groups or pairs and give each group one of the following

Bible passages to explore: ●Romans 8:1–4; ●8:5–8; ●8:9–11; ●8:12–17.

Ask them to write a description of life under the Holy Spirit’s rule, or under the rule of self, according to the verses they have been given.

When they are ready, ask them to add their ideas to the large sheet of paper. Then invite everyone to spend a few quiet moments reflecting on the two different descriptions and especially the life of true freedom we have in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Invite class members to create something simple that illustrates freedom through Jesus. They can use plain white paper and a card, pens, glue, tape, and scissors to create whatever they would like: a sculpture, a poem, a word picture, or a cutout shape, et cetera. Let those who want to, place their work in the center of the group for everyone to reflect on.

Pray, thanking God for the gift of freedom through Jesus.

B. Divide your class into four groups. Give each group one of the following characters to study in Romans 8:1–17:

●God, the Father; ●Jesus Christ; ●the Holy Spirit; ●or self.

Ask each group to write a job description for their character based purely on the information given in this passage.

The description should include: ●job title; ●line manager; ●working conditions—pay, hours, staff benefits, et cetera; ●description of the role—tasks involved; necessary skills; or useful characteristics.

Then have each group write a job advert for their character that could be printed in the local newspaper. Have them present the job description and advert to the larger group as if it is their management team. How might management adjust the descriptions and adverts?

Discuss the roles that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit should play in our lives and the role we have in responding to the freedom offered through Jesus.

Invite them to write their own personal job description as a child of God. Encourage them to live that job description through the week and to bring back stories of their experience to the next class.

Discussing the Ideas

1. Think about a time when you felt totally free. Why did you feel so free, and how could you experience that feeling again?

2. In Romans 8:1–17, which verse or phrase is most about Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit? Which verse is most about you?

3. If you were imprisoned for being a Christian, what would you do to ensure that you stayed spiritually, physically,

and emotionally strong?

4. Many people don’t realize how imprisoned they are by their own habits and choices. Focus on a group of people in your community, and discuss what you could do as a class to help them taste true freedom.

5. As a child of God, what would you most like do with your Father?

6. How can we “share in the glory of Christ”? What does this mean to you?

Closing the Activity

Give out the strips of card. Ask everyone to write one word or symbol on their strip to illustrate a problem/sin from which they would love to be released. Then wrap the strip around their wrist.

Pass adhesive tape around the circle, with each person taping together the strip

of the person on their left. Pray, asking Jesus to set each person free from their bonds through the Holy Spirit.

Then, circulate a pair of blunt-ended scissors, so each person can cut the wristband off the person to their right. Shred the bands if possible.

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CQ RACE TRACK

Look in the mirror in front of you, not down at your hands. "Drive" your pen around the racing circuit as quickly as possible!

