



**2010
Youth
Leader's
Guide**

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What does freedom mean to us?

All around us people live in bondage to sin in its many forms — drugs, money, alcohol, pornography ... just to name a few. Jesus came to set us free from these chains of bondage. Jesus also came to heal our fears and our shame.

From this place of freedom and healing we move into celebration and service. We worship and help others find true freedom.

Our Free Methodist ancestors had these beliefs in mind when they challenged the church of their day. One of the issues plaguing the church then ... and now ... is that of slavery. There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today — real slaves, under the threat of violence, held captive, forced to work for their masters, denied dignity and life as God intends for us all. Slavery exists not just in places like India and Egypt, but also in the United States. An estimated 14,000 individuals, mostly women and children, are trafficked into the United States each year.

What can we do about this? What is our response to modern slavery?

As Christians — as Free Methodists — as citizens of a country that believes in freedom, we seek to end slavery on every front and in every way.

You can make a difference.

Your church can make a difference.

Here are some simple things you can do:

- Use the study options included in this leader's guide.
- Download and use the excellent no-cost Bible study materials from: www.notforsalecampaign.org/resources/.
The *Not For Sale* Campaign "equips and mobilizes 'Smart Activists' to deploy innovative solutions to re-abolish slavery in their own backyards and across the globe." Other resources are also available from *Not For Sale*.
- Have your students read *Be the Change*, an engaging and inspiring book by Jach Hunter. (Jach was 15 years old when he wrote the book.)
- Observe Freedom Sunday, February 21, with your youth and church.

Freedom and the Free Methodist Church

At the July 2007 General Conference, the Free Methodist Church adopted this statement:

Slavery and human trafficking in all their forms are unjust, destroy human dignity and devalue human life. We denounce and resist all forms of slavery and human trafficking: indentured servitude, trade slavery, sex-slave trade, and the forced sale and/or transport of people (forced adoption for profit and mail order bride for profit) in all its forms. We actively oppose slavery through establishing local and global networks in conjunction with existing Free Methodist ministries to combat slavery through prayer, education, advocacy, rescue, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims, and the call for application of justice and opposition to the people and organizations responsible for human trafficking.

Read Isaiah 58.

What is true fasting?

How do you fast in these ways?

How does your church fast in these ways?

Do you experience the same outcomes as found in the text?

A statement like the one adopted at the 2007 General Conference is just words and good thoughts ... unless there is action. What are your thoughts about how to make this statement come alive:

in your life?

in your church?

in your family?

in your school?

in your city?

Why do you think faith and social action go together? (See 1 John 3:16-18.) Are they integrated in your life?

Freedom!

**F r e e d o m
i n
C h r i s t**

John 8:31-41
Galatians 5:1
2 Corinthians 3:17

**F r e e
f r o m
s i n**

Acts 13:39
Galatians 5:13
1 Peter 2:16

**F r e e
t h o s e
i n
b o n d a g e**

Exodus 3:7
Luke 4:18
Galatians 3:26-4:7

**F r e e
t o
s e r v e**

Deuteronomy 6:13
Ephesians 6:7
1 Peter 4:7-11

Freedom

Bible study instructions

Freedom is at the center of who we are. To help your youth understand this more fully, lead them through this fourfold exercise, which focuses on our freedom. Freedom moves from personal experience to corporate expression to embracing a wider transformation of outsiders and all of society.

We can divide this freedom into four sections:

- Freedom in Christ
- Free from sin
- Free to serve
- Freeing others

You can use this Bible study in a variety of ways:

- Participants can look at each section together in the group.
- Participants can be divided into teams of four to read, reflect and then report back to the larger group.
- Or individuals can study on their own and then gather together for discussion.

Three things to consider as you lead:

- You'll notice that Galatians is listed in several places. Galatians is a key book in describing freedom. You might consider having the group study the whole book. A good source to help you is Eugene Peterson's excellent book *Traveling Light*.
- Some of the discussion should venture into broad themes. The metanarrative (sometimes also known as a master or grand narrative) of the Bible is the exodus. The exodus was God's act of bringing His people out of slavery and into the Promised Land. Later, Jesus did the same for us on the spiritual level. God's deliverance is the backdrop for all that

Freedom!

scripture teaches and for our life together in Christ. This is worth pointing out and expanding upon.

- In the section on “Free those in bondage,” lean into application. If the other three sections are true, why not spread that good news out to others? For help with this section see the website: Notforsalecampaign.org.



Photo by Kevin Austin

Photo was taken as child was being rescued. She was being sold for \$3.00



Photo by Kevin Austin



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