

This study guide is provided as a way to follow a program of weekly Bible readings to help deepen our faith and reflect on the main points of Sunday's message. May it bless you richly!

Monday, January 23, 2012: Read John 8:31b-36.

This scripture passage contains one of the better known phrases in the Bible: "the truth will set you free." How have you recently seen evidence of the liberating power of the truth in your life? Where do you feel you are being called to be a witness for the truth?

Tuesday, January 24, 2012: Read Galatians 5:1-6

In this passage Paul is pretty worked up. There have been some members of the Galatian church who concluded that circumcision is required in order to be a disciple of Jesus and to put it mildly, Paul is angry. Are we as a church ever guilty of putting up artificial barriers to people in their discipleship? Do we sometimes make it harder than it really is?

Wednesday, January 25, 2012: Read Romans 8:1-8.

In this passage Paul asks his readers to consider "the path of greatest freedom;" whether it comes in following the law or the spirit. Are we occasionally afraid to embrace the freedom Christ offers us? Sometimes the constraints of a system of laws and codes of conduct makes it easier to decide and act and ultimately evade difficult responsibility. How ready are YOU to embrace Christ's freedom today?

Thursday, January 26, 2012: Read Isaiah 61:1-2

This passage is the first public preaching of Jesus recorded in the Bible. It explicitly reminds us of God's call to "set the captives free." How well do we act on that call as a church? What kinds of things might be holding people prisoner that we can act as "agents of liberation" with?

Friday, January 27, 2012: Read Exodus 16:1-3

One of the greatest, most powerful acts of God recorded in the Bible is the act of liberating the Hebrew people from Egypt. And yet, here we read the story of the Israelites begging Moses to take them back into slavery in Egypt, where at least they had food. Have you ever been guilty of rejecting the freedom God seeks to give you? What is the most recent example? How will you live in and rejoice with God's great gift of freedom today?