

Long Story Short: Celebrating God's Gift of Freedom

Reflect

1. When you hear the word "freedom" what do you think of?
2. In what ways are you free?
3. In what ways are you not free?

Read

- Exodus 12:1-32 (Ex. 12:21-28 & Luke 22:19...Luke 23:36-37)

Apply God's Word for Your Life

1. Why does God desire to set us free?
2. Notice the command that God gives the Israelites: that in order to be spared, they needed to obey God's command. Yet, it was through their obedience that they gained freedom. In what ways do you experience freedom because of your obedience?
3. What do you feel God has set you free from?
4. Christ was obedient even unto death on the cross. When you hear the words: "This is my body given for you," do you have a sense of God's self-sacrifice out of love for you in order that you may be set free? Set free for what?
5. Why are love and freedom infinitely linked?
6. We celebrate a number of things in our culture, from birthdays, our country's independence, to the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In what ways can we celebrate God's gift of freedom and bring God glory?

God's love is the great motivator for both God and for us. It is out of love that we have been set free. It was the ultimate act of love within Christ's sacrifice that set us free, free from the bondage of sin, free from the power of death and the devil and free to love. We cannot love without the freedom to choose to love and we cannot be set free without being loved. The freedom that God has so graciously given unto us is worthy of our most celebratory celebration complete with outrageous acts of grace and kindness to God and to our neighbors, born out of the love God has for us. Celebrate our gift of freedom by sharing God's love with our neighbors.

Pray

Lord, we come before You with grateful hearts, grateful for the freedom that was purchased by the blood of Jesus. We do acknowledge that we take this freedom for granted, even abuse this gift graciously given unto us. Forgive us and may we experience Your love in such a way that it transforms us, so that we celebrate and cherish the gift of freedom and use it to bring You glory. Amen.