



THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Pastor Jason Laird
“The Side We Hide”
(“Whispers from the Inside”)

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

***It's really about 'Who' will free you, not 'what' will free you.
Freedom is in the promise, not in how hard you try.***

[Romans 7:15-24, NLT]

“I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war

with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

Desperate times call for desperate measures.

THE SAME SIN

The devil knows your string; when you figure out what his note is, he starts to use another one. (Just like a piano string vibrating to the tune of a note sung around it.)

THE REAL STRUGGLE

Our hearts are idol-making factories.—C.S.Lewis

The whisper (of the enemy) is in the wound.—Jason Laird

THE REAL SOLUTION

Look at our sin (acknowledge it) and then immediately look at our Savior.

[Romans 8:1-4, NLT]

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power¹ of the life-giving Spirit has freed you¹ from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the

just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

[Ephesians 1:7, NLT]

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

He wouldn't "put it on the menu," if you couldn't have it!

[Romans 7:24-25, NLT]

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin."

[Galatians 3:3, NLT]

How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

Freedom is not achieved; it is received!

THREE THINGS TO REMIND OURSELVES OFTEN:

- 1. Jesus purchased our freedom.**
- 2. Freedom is not the absence of something but the presence of someone.**
- 3. Freedom is a journey.**

***"I will choose to ignore the whispering lies of the enemy.
My identity is in Christ."***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one promise that you've seen fulfilled in your life?
2. Share about a time when you wanted to be free of a thought or opinion about yourself. What was that lie that was tripping you up? Did you feel like you kept getting kicked when you were down or that this idea continually came up in your head?
3. What events happened in your life that defined your image of yourself? Are they true in God's eyes or according to Scripture?
4. How have you tried to earn God's acceptance or favor, while serving and walking with Him? How did that work out for you?
5. Do you believe in your heart that God accepts all of who you are right now (including the issues, mistakes, and sin), and how he has uniquely created you?
6. What lies has the enemy been whispering in your ear that you would like God to replace with his promises and assurances? Go to God in prayer now and claim that the lie is not true, claiming instead the truth of God's acceptance.
7. Freedom from the lies or sin is not in the absence of those things, but in the presence of the Lord. If possible, spend some time in worship and prayer to conclude your group time. Worship over songs that claim God's Sovereignty and his love for you. Praise Him for his goodness. Your adoration of him is the beginning of His transformation of you. (If you have the *A Life of Worship* CD or DVD, that's a great living room option.)