

Gifts of Freedom

Books One, Two & Three

-13 Week Book Study-

This study plan will require group members to read one or two chapters per week, and complete the study questions found in the back of each book prior to meeting. To begin, group members will need to have *Gifts of Freedom Book 1: Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith and Adversity*. They'll need to read the Introduction and Chapter 1, "In the Beginning" before the first session.

We also have two optional activities we'd like to recommend. You'll need to decide quickly if you want to pursue these, as you'll need some lead time to get these resources organized:

1. The first is a DVD entitled "The Origins of Life" which can be ordered from *Answers in Genesis*. Featuring author and speaker Mike Riddle, this hour long presentation can be purchased online for about \$15 at www.answersingenesis.org. If you want to do this, it fits well after the Week 4 session.
2. The second optional resource is a Spiritual Gifts inventory called "Gifted2Serve." If the members of your group have internet access, they can go online to complete the test at www.buildingchurch.net. Have them print out the results and bring them on Week 10 for the discussion on Spiritual Gifts. If members of your group don't have internet access, then you may need to print out a few copies of the test and hand them out to those who need them a week or two ahead of time. Have students return the test; then you or a helper can manually enter their answers on the site to get the results. This may require some extra effort, but imagine what might happen as a result of your group members' gaining an understanding of how God has wired them for service in the body of Christ.

Leader Tip: Review the Leaders Notes several weeks in advance of the first session, and keep them handy during the study, especially if you are new at leading this kind of study group.

Week 1: In the Beginning

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Lead the prayer yourself the first week; invite others to lead in subsequent weeks.

Introduce the study – You might want to read the Preface aloud to get things started. Then invite volunteers to share what they're hoping to get out of the study. Have someone in the group make notes about what people say so you can check along the way to see if the study is meeting the needs of the group.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide. This is a great opportunity to have group members help each other examine the practical application of the chapter.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 2 and 3, “Life – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Week 2: Life (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 4 and 5, “The Holy Spirit – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Week 3: The Holy Spirit (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 6 and 7, “Faith – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Week 4: Faith (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 8, “Adversity” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

Week 5: Watch the optional DVD “Origins of Life” (continue the regular schedule next session)

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Week 5: Adversity

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2, “Gold – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Week 6: Gold (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 3 and 4, “Frankincense – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Week 7: Frankincense (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 5, 6 and 7, “Myrrh – Parts 1, 2 and 3” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Leader Tip: If you are going to use the “Gifted2Serve” inventory during Week 10, then review the website and hand out questionnaires to those with no internet access during this session

Week 8: Myrrh (Parts 1, 2 and 3)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2, “Increase – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Leader Tip: You’ll need to collect any of the “Gifted2Serve” answer sheets you gave out last week; then find some time to manually enter them at the website this week.

Week 9: Increase (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapters 3 and 4, “Gifts of the Spirit – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for those chapters.

Week 10: Gift of the Spirit (Parts 1 and 2)

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapter 5, “Relationship” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

Week 11: Relationship

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Leader Tip: If you had group members fill out the “Gifted2Serve” inventory, go over that during this session as part of the discussion.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapter 6, “Your Destiny” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

Week 12: Your Destiny

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.

Give homework instructions – Tell group members to read Chapter 7, “God of the Trinity” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

Week 13: God of the Trinity

Open with prayer – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members.

Review the Study Questions – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members become comfortable sharing. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those.

Consider the Action Steps – Read and discuss this section of the guide.

Review and thanksgiving – Spend a little time in review, inviting people to share those things they learned that impacted them most. Encourage each person to share at least one thing they’re thankful for learning from this study.

Close with prayer – Use the prayer in the study guide to close the session with a time of prayer; invite others to pray as they feel led.