

# Gifts of Freedom

## Books One, Two & Three

-26 Week Book Study-

This study plan will require group members to read one chapter per week, and complete the study questions found in the Study Guide in the back of the book prior to each meeting. To begin, group members will need to have *Gifts of Freedom Book 1: Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith and Adversity*. For the first session group members will need to read the Introduction and Chapter 1, "In the Beginning." Group members will need to have *Gifts of Freedom Book 2: Understanding Provision, Communication and Death* prior to week 10 and *Gifts of Freedom Book 3: Unwrapping Increase, Destiny, Relationships, God, and the Gifts of the Spirit* prior to week 19. Completing one chapter a week while working through all three books will require 22 weeks. By adding the two optional resources described below, and allowing for a flex week between each book, you can effectively fill a 26-week block.

**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.

As mentioned above, we have two optional activities we 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 a small cost at [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org). This video fits well in the Week 8 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](http://www.buildingchurch.net). Have them print out the results and bring them on Week 22 for the discussion on Spiritual Gifts. If some 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!

### **Week 1: Gifts of Freedom Book 1, Embracing: Introduction & Chapter 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 this first session.

*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 more 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 applications 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. But don't press anyone, especially during this first session.

*Give homework instructions* – Tell group members to read the next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

### ***Weeks 2 through 7: Gifts of Freedom Book 1, Embracing: Chapter 2 – Life (Part 1) to Chapter 7 – Faith (Part 2)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the each 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 during each session. Remember that lively and healthy discussion is the goal; not the completion of a certain number of questions.

*Consider the Action Steps* – Read and discuss this section of the Guide for that week's 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. Over time, others will begin to feel more comfortable participating and sharing their own requests.

*Give homework instructions* – Tell group members to read the next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

### ***Week 8: Watch the optional DVD "Origins of Life"***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Watch the DVD* – After you've watched the video, allow plenty of time for discussion.

*Give homework instructions* – Tell group members to read Chapter 8, "Adversity" and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter as preparation for the next session.

### ***Week 9: Book 1, Embracing: Chapter 8 – Adversity***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Group members should be a bit more comfortable sharing by now. 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 Chapter 1, “Gold – Part 1” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

### ***Week 10: Flex Week***

If you’ve missed a week, you can make up that session this week, or you can take a week off to give the group a breather. If you take the week off, you’ll still want to follow up with the group members to make sure they have a copy and have begun reading *Gifts of Freedom Book 2: Understanding, Provision, Communication and Death*.

### ***Week 11: Book 2, Understanding: Introduction and Chapter 1 – Gold (Part 1)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*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 (this might be a good time to review what was written down when you began the study of Book 1).

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Encourage participation as group members should be comfortable sharing by now. 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 next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

***Weeks 12-17: Book 2, Understanding: Chapter 2 – Gold (Part 2) through Chapter 7 – Myrrh (Part 3)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. 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 Chapter 1, “Increase – Part 1” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

***Week 18: Flex Week***

If you’ve missed a week, you can make up that session this week, or you can take a week off to give the group a breather. If you take the week off, you may still want to follow up with the group members to make sure they have a copy of *Gifts of Freedom Book 3: Unwrapping Increase, Destiny, Relationships, God, and the Gifts of the Spirit*, and that they have begun the reading.

***Week 19: Book 3 Unwrapping: Introduction and Chapter 1 – Increase (Part 1)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others you feel are comfortable to lead the prayer.

*Introduce the study* – You might want to read the Preface aloud to get things started. Then invite others 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. (If you done this ‘note-taking’ before the first two books, now is a good time to review those notes and allow people to share what they’ve learned so far.)

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Members should be very comfortable sharing at this point. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide to discuss.

*Consider the Action Steps* – Read and discuss this section of the Study 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 next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

## ***Week 20: Book 3 Unwrapping: Chapter 2 – Increase (Part 2)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide to discuss.

*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 next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

**Leader Tip:** If you are going to use the “Gifted2Serve” inventory during Week 22, then review the website briefly during this session and hand out questionnaires to those members of your group who have no internet access.

## ***Week 21: Book 3 Unwrapping: Chapter 3 – Gifts of the Spirit (Part 1)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide to discuss.

*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 next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter. If you are using the Spiritual Gifts Inventory, remind group members to complete the questionnaire and bring the results with them next week. Collect any questionnaires completed by hand, so that you’ll have time to manually enter them at the website. This may require some extra time, but will be well worth it if you can help someone identify their gifts, and discover how to begin to put those gifts to use! If you have a number of these paper questionnaires, then get other class members to help you with the data entry.

## ***Week 22: Book 3 Unwrapping: Chapter 3 – Gifts of the Spirit (Part 2)***

*Open with prayer* – Invite the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom to your study group members. Invite others to lead if you feel they are comfortable doing so.

*Review the Study Questions & The Spiritual Gifts Inventories* – These are the main focus of this session, so take your time. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide and discuss those. Take plenty of time to review the Spiritual Gift Inventories which group members completed.

There is still one flex week available, so if you need to, you can stretch the discussion of the inventories into the next week.

*Consider the Action Steps* – Read and discuss this section of the Guide. Obviously a discussion of how the group can put its gifts to use is an important part of this session.

*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 next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

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

### ***Week 23: Flex Week***

If you've missed a week, you can make up that session this week, or you can take a week off to give the group a breather. If the previous session on Spiritual Gifts requires more time for discussion and review of the inventories, take this week and spend more time on that subject.

### ***Week 24 & 25: Book 3, Unwrapping: Chapter 5 – Relationship & Chapter 6 – Your Destiny***

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

*Review the Study Questions* – This is the main focus of the session, so take your time. Pick 6 or 7 of the questions in the Study Guide to discuss.

*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 next chapter in the book and to answer the questions in the Study Guide for the final chapter!

### ***Week 26: Book 3, Unwrapping: Chapter 7 – God of the Trinity***

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

*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 to discuss.

*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.

***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.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have completed the Gifts of Freedom Group Series of Books!

*Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith, and Adversity*

*Understanding Provision, Communication, and Death*

*Unwrapping Increase, Destiny, Relationship, God, and the Gifts of the Spirit*

You may also want to sign up for our Gifts of Freedom newsletter at the gifts of freedom website [www.giftsoffreedom.com](http://www.giftsoffreedom.com)

Best wishes from author Greg Rice for a lifetime of commitment to your heavenly Father and to service to others for God's glory.