

# Gifts of Freedom Book One

-6 Week Study-

This study covers *Book 1* of the *Gifts of Freedom Series; Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith and Adversity*. This is the first of three six-week studies covering all three books in the *Gifts of Freedom Series*. This format focuses on each book in the series for a short period of time; then allows for a break before diving into the next book. Of course, you can run these 'back-to-back-to-back' if your group desires. But taking some time between sessions will allow some of the previous content to soak in a little deeper. Group members will continue to process their learning during the "off weeks" and will come back ready to dive in when the new sessions begin.

There is an optional activity we would like to recommend for this first series. It is a DVD entitled "The Origins of Life" which can be ordered from Answers in Genesis. Featuring speaker and author Mike Riddle, this hour long film costs around \$15, and may be purchased online at [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org). You'll need to decide quickly if you want to pursue this, as you'll need some lead time to get the DVD ordered. The DVD can be used during Week 5, and we'll provide instructions in Weeks 3 and 4 on how to cover the material to free up that Week 5 session to watch the video.

**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.

**One week before your first session** – Make sure every group member has a copy of *Gifts of Freedom Book 1; Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith and Adversity*. Ask them to read the Introduction and Chapter 1, "In the Beginning" and answer the study questions for that chapter, which are found in the back of the book.

## **Week 1: What's My Purpose and What Went Wrong?**

*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 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 Chapter 4 & 5, “The Holy Spirit – Parts 1 & 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for this chapter.

## ***Week 3: The Holy Spirit (Parts 1 & 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 6, “Faith – Part 1” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for this chapter. If you are planning on watching “The Origins of Life” DVD in Week 5, students will also need to read Chapter 7, “Faith – Part 2”, this week.

## ***Week 4: Faith (Part 1)***

*Optional:* Covering “Faith – Part 2” during this session will leave the next session (Week 5) open to watch the DVD “The Origins of Life.”

*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, “Faith – Part 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for these chapters.

### **Week 5: Faith (Part 2)**

*Optional:* View the DVD “The Origin of Life.”

*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 8 “Adversity” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 1* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for this chapter.

### **Week 6: 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.

*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.

*Give homework instructions* – Tell group members when you’ll be starting the study of *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* so they can plan accordingly.

# Gifts of Freedom Book Two

-6 Week Study-

Note: This is a follow-up to a study of the first book in the *Gifts of Freedom Series*. If someone who did not go through the first 6 week study wants to participate, invite them to first read on their own *Gifts of Freedom Book 1; Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith and Adversity* and then consider the study questions found in the book before joining this group. That way they'll be caught up with the concepts presented in the first study.

**One week before your first session** – Make sure every group member has a copy of *Gifts of Freedom Book 2; Understanding Provision, Communication, and Death*. Ask them to read the Introduction and Chapter 1, “Gold – Part 1” and answer the study questions for that chapter, which are found in the back of the book.

## **Week 1: Gold (Part 1)**

*Get things started* – Open with a fun conversation starter – have group members share something the rest of the group doesn't know (briefly).

*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.

*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 Chapter 2, “Gold – Part 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

**Leader Tip:** Review the Leaders Notes again. You might be thinking you've got the hang of leading a small group now. Congratulations! But continue to think about how you can improve your skills and the dynamics of the group.

## ***Week 2: Gold (Part 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 3, “Frankincense – Part 1” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for this chapter.

## ***Week 3: Frankincense (Part 1)***

*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 4, “Frankincense – Part 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for this chapter.

## ***Week 4: Frankincense (Part 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 and 6, “Myrrh – Parts 1 and 2” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for these chapters.

### ***Week 5: Myrrh (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 7, “Myrrh – Part 3” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 2* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for this chapter.

### ***Week 6: Myrrh (Part 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.

*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.

*Give homework instructions* – Tell group members when you’ll be starting the study of *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* so they can plan accordingly

# Gifts of Freedom Book Three

-6 Week Study-

Note: This is a follow-up to a study of the first two books in the *Gifts of Freedom Series*. If someone who did not go through the previous studies wants to participate, invite them to first read on their own *Book 1 of the Gifts of Freedom Series; Embracing Life, Spirit, Faith and Adversity*, and then *Book 2; Understanding Provision, Communication, and Death* and consider the study questions found in those books, before joining the group. That way they'll be caught up with the concepts presented in the first two studies.

There is an optional resource we'd like to recommend for use during this series. It is a Spiritual Gifts inventory named "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 3 for the discussion of Spiritual Gifts. If some members of your group don't have internet access, then you may need to print out a couple copies of the test from the website and hand them out ahead of time. Have students return the tests to you; then you or a helper can manually enter their answers on the website to get results. This effort may require some extra time; 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 yet again. No matter how good you are now!

**One week before your first session** – Make sure every group member has a copy of *Gifts of Freedom Book Three; Unwrapping Increase, Destiny, Relationships, God and the Gifts of the Spirit*. Ask them to read the Introduction and Chapter 1, "Increase – Part 1" and answer the study questions for that chapter, which are found in the back of the book.

## **Week 1: Increase (Part 1)**

*Get things started* – Open with a fun conversation starter – have group members share something the rest of the group doesn't know (briefly).

*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.

*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 Chapter 2, “Increase – Part 1” in *Gifts of Freedom Book 3* and answer the questions in the Study Guide for that chapter.

### **Week 2: Increase (Part 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.

**Leader’s Option:** Encourage students to take the online Spiritual Gifts inventory, called “Gifted2Serve”. Students can print the results and bring them for Week 3. You may want to print out a few questionnaires for those without internet access. See the notes on the top of the previous page.

*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 these chapters.

### **Week 3: 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. ([Review the “Gifted2Serve” inventory results if completed](#))

*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 this chapter.

### **Week 4: 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.

*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 this chapter.

### ***Week 5: 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 this chapter.

### ***Week 6: 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.