

Freedom and Release

Bible Readings

OT

Ex 6:2-8; 12:29-39

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-12

Gospel

Luke 22:7-19

This session creates opportunities for people of all ages to:

- think of ourselves as God's 'set free' people
- look at the good things God has given us as his people – including one another – and thank him for them
- share our experiences of freedom in Christ and discovering freedom from wrong attitudes to wealth and be honest about our difficulties in this area.

Main idea

In Session 1 we explored the contrast of the abundance of God's provision and Israel's captivity in Egypt. This time we read about God setting his people free and the blessing that accompanied that freedom. They leave the land not only with a great abundance of people but also of Egyptian wealth. The blessing of wealth, and the right handling of that blessing, was part of the freedom. As God's people today, we are called to live in the freedom that Jesus has won for us in every area of our lives. That must include the right handling of money and possessions as a gift from God.

Background

This week's material is based on the 'snapshot' moment of the Israelites setting off from Egypt carrying a great wealth of Egyptian gold, silver and clothes along with large numbers of animals and people. This abundance of people, of gifts and property all comes from God. See the [Exodus Introduction](#) which explains more about their significance in the story.

The gifts are part of the blessing, but knowing how to handle the blessing God gives is not always easy. We know that when they received the blessing of freedom from Egypt the people journeyed through the desert – and they grumbled a great deal as they did so! When they received the blessing of wealth they had to learn to live in this blessing correctly. Is it any surprise that they made mistakes, big mistakes when suddenly presented with riches beyond their dreams? We shall explore the golden

calf incident later in this series. All that Israel knew of wealth in Egypt was what they saw others have and use. Just because we are set free does not mean we immediately stop thinking like slaves.

The activities set this narrative alongside our own stories of freedom. The New Testament writers use imagery of slavery and freedom to describe what Jesus has done for us – setting us free from the slavery of sin and the 'basic principles of the world' (Galatians 4:3 NIV) – including attitudes to wealth and possessions. And they show us coming into this freedom inundated by God's abundant riches – not an increase in our material wealth, but the riches of belonging to God, being made into his people together and of knowing him. Some of the activities use material from Ephesians 1-3 to bring this perspective.

Warming up, Warming Down

The resources for this week include:

- Play Dough creation.
- A memory game exploring the desire for possessions.
- Songs and a song based quiz around the theme of freedom.
- Freedom stories for narration or simple mime and/or drama.
- Baking a freedom cake
- Modern day rescue stories and our Christian experience