

FREEDOM

Small Group Leader Training

TONIGHT • 30 MINUTES

Today's Roadmap

1

Share the Impact of Freedom

Stories of what Freedom has done — in us and in people we've watched it change.

7 MIN

2

The Journey: Group + Conference

The Freedom journey is still both — the weekly group experience and the conference.

6 MIN

3

Best Practices for Leading

Safe space, facilitation, preparation, heavy moments, and dwindling attendance.

10 MIN

4

Conference Prep

The group discount, capturing your group's moments, and the Letter to God activity.

5 MIN

5

Next Steps

Group registration, attendance, serving at the conference, and the Conference Rally.

2 MIN

PART ONE • OPEN UP

Share the Impact of Freedom



*If you've walked through Freedom: what did God do **in you** along the way?*



*Where have you watched Freedom **change someone** you know — a spouse, friend, or group member?*



What are you believing God will do in the people of your group this semester?

NEW TO FREEDOM? You don't need your own Freedom-group story to lead one. Share what drew you to say yes, or what you've seen it do in someone else — that's impact too.

PART ONE · OPEN UP

Why We Start With Impact



Stories are your credibility

Whether it's your own testimony or one you've witnessed up close, changed lives are the most convincing case for Freedom you will ever make.



Vulnerability sets the temperature

Your group will only ever go as deep as you go first. When the leader opens up honestly, walls come down for everyone else.



New to Freedom? You still qualify

You lead from vision, not just history. Borrow the stories you've seen and heard, walk the material a week ahead of your group, and let God write your own story as you lead.

PART TWO

The Journey

The Freedom journey is still the group experience + the conference.



+



PART TWO • THE JOURNEY

Two Parts, One Journey



The Group Experience

- An 8-week curriculum, walked out in a weekly rhythm
- Truth gets processed in discussion, not just heard
- Trust is built slowly — walls come down week by week
- This is where the soil of the heart gets prepared



The Conference

- A concentrated, set-apart encounter with God
- Extended worship, teaching, and ministry time
- Where weeks of process meet a moment of breakthrough
- Most powerful for those who've done the group journey

It's not either/or. The group prepares the heart; the conference is the appointment. The full journey is both.

PART TWO • THE JOURNEY

Your Role: Get Them All the Way There



**The group is the journey.
The conference is the
finish line.**

A leader's job isn't done when the last lesson ends — it's done when their people walk through the conference doors.

SATURDAY, NOV 14 • 9 AM – 5 PM



Champion it from week one

Talk about the conference early and often — cast vision before you ask for commitment.



Register together, in group

Make it a group moment. Pull out phones and sign up on the spot — don't leave it to "later."



Remove the barriers

Cost, childcare, schedule, fear of the unknown — surface and solve them. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.



Follow up with the fence-sitters

A personal text or call moves more people than another group announcement ever will.

PART THREE

Group Experience + Best Practices

PART THREE • THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

Workbooks & Materials



Available at Every Location

Participant workbooks are available for purchase at all Freedom locations.

\$20 / COPY



Fill-in-the-Blank Engagement

NEW

New this year — every workbook includes fill-in-the-blank sections for the teaching videos, so participants stay engaged and take notes as they watch, instead of just listening.



Sample Workbook Page

Surrender is the act of _____.

It is _____ to be content.

“Be still, and know that I am _____. ”

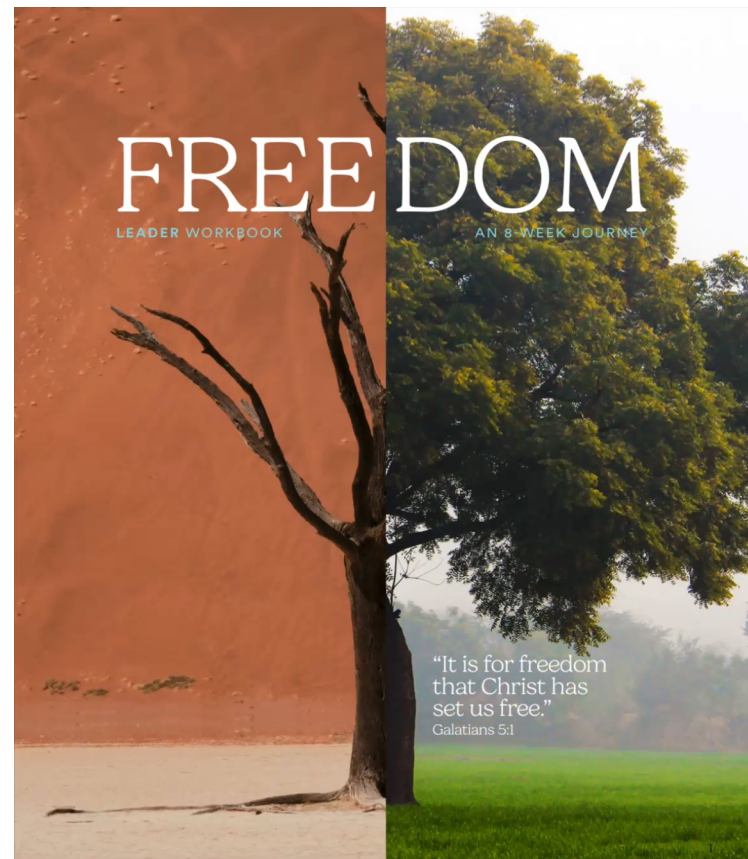
PART THREE • THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

Know Your Time & Flow



What Leaders Need to Watch

- **Know your total run time**
Build the night's agenda backward from your real end time — don't guess and hope it fits.
- **Protect time for discussion**
The teaching video is the anchor, not the whole night. Guard enough time after it for real conversation.
- **Build in buffer**
Leave a few minutes for late arrivals, tech hiccups, or a discussion that's going somewhere good.
- **Keep the same weekly rhythm**
A consistent flow every week helps the group settle in faster and know what to expect.



BEST PRACTICES

Four Habits of a Strong Freedom Leader



1 · Create a Safe Place

- “What’s shared here stays here” — every week
- Everyone can share, no one has to — “pass” is okay
- No fixing, cross-talk, or advice — just listen
- Watch the quiet ones — silence isn’t disengagement



2 · Facilitate — Don’t Teach, Don’t Fix

- Ask open questions, not yes/no ones
- Live the 70/30 rule — they talk, you guide
- Let silence do its work
- Start and end on time



3 · Come Prepared and Prayed Up

- Do the material first — never lead what you haven’t lived
- Pray for members by name, every week
- Touch base mid-week with a simple text
- Celebrate every win, however small



4 · When Heavy Things Surface

- Pause and pray, right then
- Don’t counsel; you’re a shepherd, not a therapist
- Loop in your coach on anything serious
- Know your church’s referral path before you need it

BEST PRACTICE

When Attendance Starts to Dwindle



Why it might be happening

- The content hit close to home — avoiding group is often a sign the material is working, not failing
- Life piled up — schedules, kids, and work get loud mid-semester
- Someone felt exposed or judged after sharing and is quietly pulling back
- No connection outside the meeting yet — the group is still an event, not a community



What to do about it

- Reach out within 48 hours of the first miss — “we missed you,” never “where were you?”
- Ask, don't assume — a call or coffee uncovers the real reason
- Recheck the room — is confidentiality holding? Is one voice dominating?
- Re-cast the vision — remind them why they started and what's waiting at the conference
- Still drifting? Loop in your coach — don't troubleshoot alone

One miss is a life event. Two is a pattern. People rarely announce they're drifting — they just quietly stop coming. Move at week one.

PART FOUR

Conference Prep

Getting your group ready for the biggest weekend of the journey.



PART FOUR • CONFERENCE PREP

What Happens at the Conference

1 Worship

2 Session 1 • Teaching: Holy Spirit

3 Session 2 • Panel

4 Session 3 • Teaching: Forgiveness + Forgiveness Letters

5 Ministry Time

6 Breakout 1



7 Breakout 2



8 Teaching: Masterpiece + Letters to God

9 Teaching: Holy Spirit Empowerment

10 Prayer & Communion with Groups

★ **Choose 2 breakouts.** Individuals select 2 breakouts to attend when they register for the conference — encourage your group to register early so their preferred sessions are still open.

PART FOUR • CONFERENCE PREP

Three Ways to Get Your Group Ready



Use the small group discount

Register together as a group and use the code below for \$20 off. Make it a group-night moment — phones out, everyone signs up on the spot.

\$60 Small Group Rate · now through 10/17

CODE: FREEDOM26SG (\$20 off)

\$90 Late rate · after 10/17

Registration closes 11/11



Capture your group's moments

Photos, answered prayers, and wins from your weekly nights. Collect them all semester — the story of your group makes conference weekend land even deeper.

Send us a video greeting from your group to include at conference opener!



Do the Letter to God activity

A guided writing activity for one of your final group nights before the conference. It turns the weekend from an event into an appointment — next slide.

PART FOUR • CONFERENCE PREP

Group Activity: A Letter to God

1

Set the moment

One of your final group nights before the conference. Soft worship music, lights low, 10–15 unhurried minutes.

2

Write honestly

What are you asking God to do through this Freedom journey? What are you ready to leave behind? What would freedom look like?

3

Seal it — no one reads it

Each person seals their letter in an envelope with their name on it. Not shared with the group. Not even with you.

4

Bring it to the conference

Collect the envelopes and hand them back at the conference — a personal marker of what they came believing God for.



Prompts to give your group

“Dear God, I’m asking You to...”

“I’m ready to let go of...”

“Freedom for me would look like...”

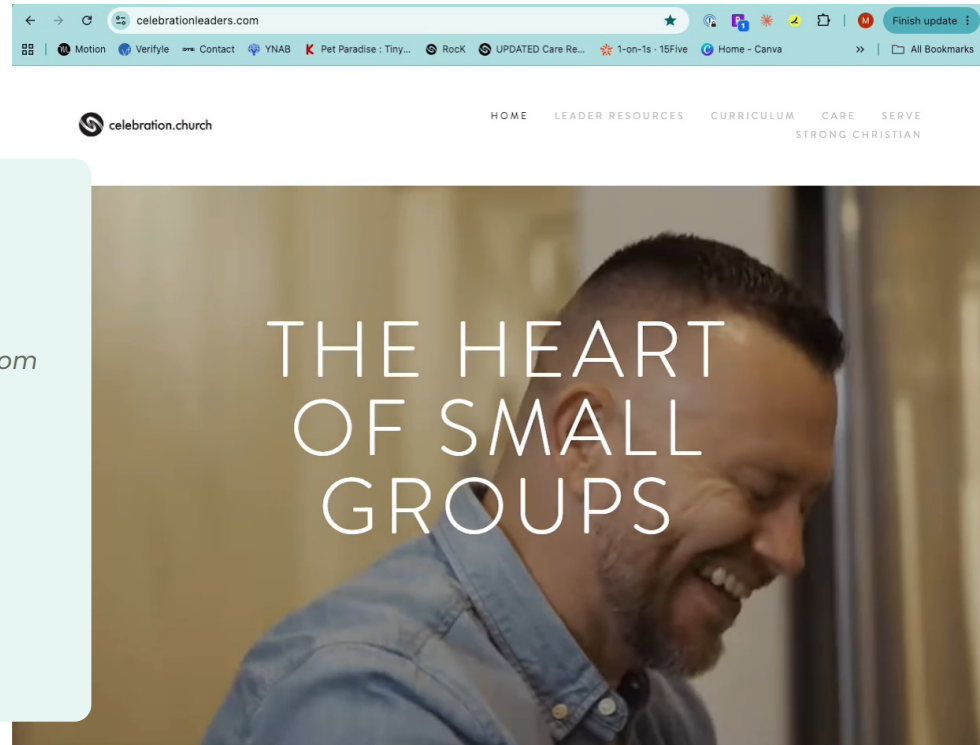
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Your Next Steps



The Group Experience

- **New group?** Register it using the New Registration form at Leader Resources at celebrationleaders.com



Do these this week. Momentum starts before your first group night.

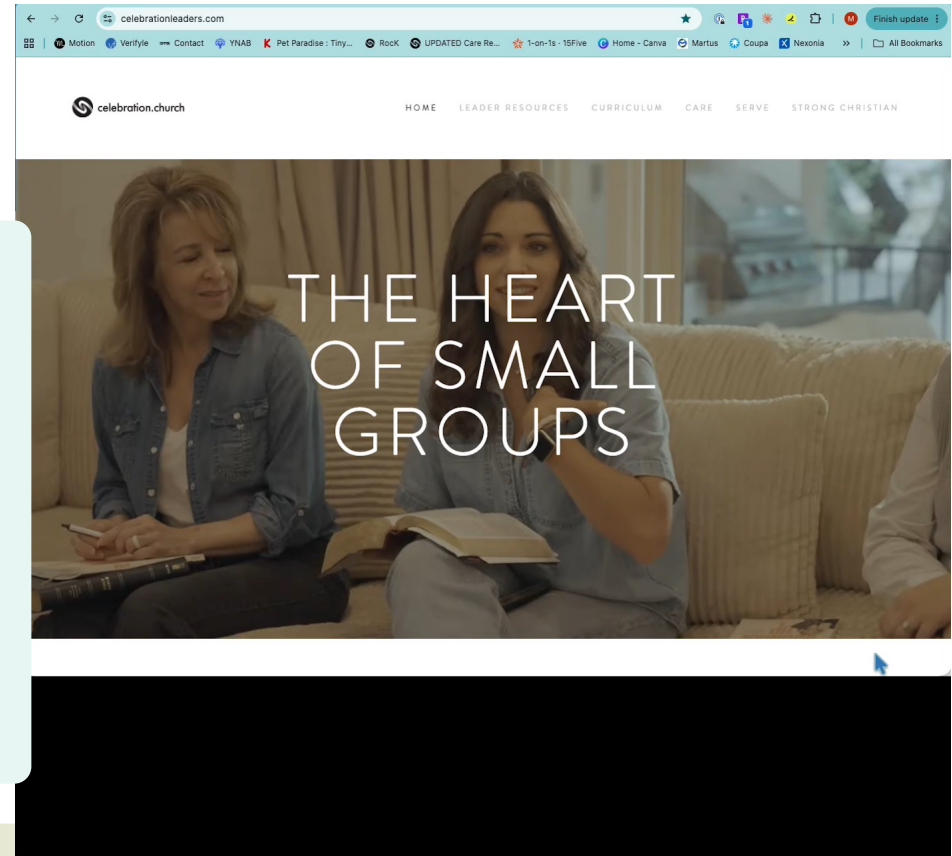
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Your Next Steps



The Group Experience

- **New group?** Register it using the New Registration form at Leader Resources at celebrationleaders.com
- **Existing group?** Let us know so we can add the Freedom category to your group



Do these this week. Momentum starts before your first group night.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Your Next Steps



The Group Experience

- New group? *Register it using the New Registration form at Leader Resources at celebrationleaders.com*
- Existing group? *Let us know so we can add the Freedom category to your group*
- **Want others to join?** *Make your group public on our directory*
- Take attendance every week
- Participant workbooks are available for purchase at each location
- **Digital leader's guide:** celebrationleaders.com



The Conference

- Come ready to serve — leaders help carry the weekend
- Leaders don't purchase a ticket — just sign up to serve
- Attend the virtual Conference Rally for vision, serving assignments, and final details

CONFERENCE • SAT, NOV 14 • 9 AM – 5 PM

CONFERENCE RALLY • NOVEMBER 7

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