



Week One

Leaders Notes

This week we are jumping into the Christmas season. If your group is meeting, our encouragement is to keep it relational and fun. Use this time to be together and celebrate. Below you will find one set of questions tied to this week's talk. Our hope is that you can use these to help start a reflective conversation. In addition, you will find some general questions that also are intended to foster conversation and reflection.

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for bringing us together in friendship. Help us to use this time to hear from you and to connect with one another in meaningful ways. Amen.

This week Harris III closed up his talk using a story from John. Let's read John 8:31-36 (NIV) now.

Harris III shared this story from John right after he got himself out of a straight jacket. The idea he was driving home is that while on many levels we are free, there are also many ways we are trapped in bondage, stuck, and settling for a counterfeit version of freedom.

- Have you ever found yourself experiencing a new, deeper level of freedom? If so, tell us the situation and how God led you towards freedom.
- So often our first step towards freedom is simply acknowledging the areas we are trapped in. Let's share an area or two where we want more freedom. Tell us what your situation is now and what you desire it to be.
- As we talk through this topic, it's important for us to remember, God doesn't love a future version of us, he loves us as we are. While this might sound simplistic, expand on what this means to you.

As we head to the end of the year, here are some questions to help us close this year well.

- What are two or three things from this year that you are thankful for?
- What is one thing that happened this year you desire to experience healing in the year to come?
- What is a prayer or hope you have for next year?

Closing Prayer

God, you know what we have been through this year, where we are now, and where you desire to lead us. Help us to say 'yes' to your freedom and your love today and in the year to come. Amen.

Additional Resource

If you are looking for additional questions for your group time or to simply encourage your group to stay connected in this season, take advantage of our Advent Prayer Resource you can find online (advent.eastlakechurch.com), on our daily eDevotional, or on the EastLake Network app.