

Attend Sunday Services

Freedom Church Center City Small Group Guide

Icebreakers

Pick one or both to get everyone talking.

1. What's something you've shown up for again and again, even when it wasn't convenient? A team, a hobby, a standing dinner. What kept you coming back?
2. Think of a time you were part of a group that bonded fast, like a team, a class, or a crew. What made that happen?

Summary

This week we looked at the first of Freedom's six core practices: attending Sunday services. The greatest challenge to our spiritual growth isn't our doubts, it's our calendar. Scripture never describes following Jesus as something we do alone. In Acts 2, 4, and 13, God's people gathered, prayed, and worshiped together, and the Spirit moved among them. In Genesis 2:18, the first thing God calls "not good" is a man alone. Research agrees: the U.S. Surgeon General has called loneliness a public health crisis, and strong community helps marriages last. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us not to neglect meeting together, but to encourage one another.

Most of us have never been told why we do what we do on a Sunday. We worship because we become like what we fix our eyes on (2 Corinthians 3:18). We hear the word preached because the apostles protected it (Acts 6:4). We take communion because it shows we belong to Christ and to each other (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). We invite others because a personal invitation is the most effective way people come to church. Pastor Billy closed with four steps: attend one more Sunday a month, arrive fifteen minutes early and stay ten minutes after, engage when we worship, and invite someone to church.

Discuss Questions

1. Pastor Billy said one of the greatest challenges to our spiritual growth isn't our doubts, it's our calendar. Look at the last month. What actually shaped your schedule, your money, and your weekends? Where did church land in that?
2. Read Acts 2:42-47. Pastor Billy said you can deliver the content online, but you can't replicate the room. Have you ever felt something in a room that you couldn't get on your own or through a screen? What was it?
3. Read Genesis 2:18. The first thing God calls "not good" is a man alone, and about half of American adults say they feel lonely. Where do you feel most alone right now, even with people around you?

4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Left alone with our doubts, grief, and pain, most of us don't talk ourselves back into hope. We talk ourselves further out. Think about your last hard season. Did you move toward people or away from them? Who noticed?
5. Pastor Billy said worship is a participation sport. When you're in the room on a Sunday, are you more of a participant or an observer? What makes it hard to really engage?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17. We all eat from one loaf because we belong to each other. Where do you keep people at arm's length? What would it cost you to let someone in?
7. Someone invited most of us to church at some point. Who invited you, and what did that do for you? Who in your life could you invite, and what's holding you back?
8. Where are you with Jesus right now, honestly? Not where you think you should be. Is there something you need to turn from, or a place where you need to trust Him again, or for the first time?

Pray