



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Christ
Makes
Free!

True
Fellowship

Fellowship
with Christ
and with
Each Other

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2020

January

Facilitators: Please remember to report your small group attendance to the appropriate person in your congregation. **If you're interested in being able to text in your attendance, talk to your rector about the Text2Voucher option.** For any additional questions, please email communications@nac-usa.org.

2020 January MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: Christ Makes Free!

1. The video mentions that living according to the will of God brings us freedom. How could giving up your will lead to freedom? In what context or environment could you picture that happening?

2. *Freedom is often the result of a victory.* What has Jesus Christ set you free from?

3. The video mentions that the Lord makes us free by allowing us to be *masters of our own destiny.* What does this phrase mean? Why do you think the Lord allows us this freedom?

4. How does Christ's death give you life? Refer to 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

5. If eternal freedom and salvation through Christ is a gift of grace that cannot be earned, why should we try so hard to be more like Him while on this earth? Can't we just do what we want since we're covered by grace? Read Romans 6:14-16. (Explore different Bible translations for clarification.)

6. How can we submit ourselves completely to the activity of the Holy Spirit?

7. *God has given us the freedom to choose for Him or against Him.* This is a powerful statement! How can we show God that we choose for Him?

8. One definition of freedom is *the right to enjoy all the privileges or special rights of citizenship.* What meaning does this give to the theme of "Christ makes free?"

Bible References

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Matthew 22:37-40

Galatians 5:1

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

John 13:34-35

Session 2: True Fellowship

1. Has this session caused you to reflect on the way that you come to celebrate Holy Communion each week? How so?

2. How would you now describe true fellowship? What does it mean to have true fellowship with Jesus Christ?

3. What are the past, present, and future aspects of Holy Communion? How are each of those aspects significant to our lives?

4. The video said, "Divisions in the congregation also violate the fundamental meaning of celebrating Holy Communion, in that Christ's sacrificial death was and is for all." What can be done to erase divisions in the congregation?

5. Right before the celebration of Holy Communion, the officiant, per the liturgy, says, "The Lord now invites you to Holy Communion." We are not just remembering a past event; we are invited, by Christ, to participate in the event remembered. Discuss the significance of this invitation.

6. How does our continual participation in the Lord's Supper strengthen our fellowship with Jesus and with each other as fellow believers?

7. One of the blessings said during the celebration of Passover is: *Let all who are hungry enter and eat; let all who are needy come to our Passover feast.* Beyond the celebration of Holy Communion, how may this blessing affect the way you serve your family, your neighbors, and your community?

8. If you look further at the lyrics of "Were you there when they crucified my Lord," the verse continues with, "Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble." In light of what the video mentioned about Holy Communion, what do these words mean to you?

Bible References

1 Corinthians 11:17-26

Session 3: Fellowship with Christ and with Each Other

1. What feelings arise in you when you celebrate Holy Communion?

2. Paul points out that the Corinthians were not taking the celebration of the Lord's Supper seriously. This can happen to us, too. What steps can we take to prevent ourselves from participating in the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner"?

3. *Even before we come to church, we can prepare our hearts through reflection and prayers of repentance.* Do you reflect on your sins and repent ahead of Holy Communion? How might you do this more intentionally moving forward, and why is this important?

4. When we examine ourselves at Holy Communion, as Paul calls us to do, what specifically should we be examining?

5. It mentions in the video that we should be different following communion, that there must be effects. What are some possible effects that this intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ can have on us?

6. How has your relationship with Jesus transformed your relationships with others?

7. Besides breaking down divisions, what other transforming effects should communion have on a congregation?

8. Brainstorm ways that you can purposefully focus more on Christ and His sacrifice before Holy Communion this coming Sunday. Find a poignant Bible verse to memorize throughout the week, or perhaps some song lyrics that focus your mind. Share with the group.

Bible References

1 Corinthians 11:27-34

Small Group Theme for February: The Creed