



A Decision

Week of June 19, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 12:22-32

Are you trapped in a cage, struggling to find a way out? The truth is we have all been trapped at some point in our lives. But, the good news is that we don't have to be. Jesus came to Earth and set us all free by his act of selfless love. When he arose on the third day, he opened the cages for us. Now, all we have to do is step out. We do this by acknowledging that Jesus is really who he said he was, and by accepting his forgiveness in our lives, no matter what we've done. We can't abstain from this choice. We must choose, because if we don't, then ultimately we have made the choice not to believe.

Pray

Lord, we know that there are things in this life that have us feeling like we're stuck. But, we also know that you've given us a way out so that we never have to be stuck again. Please help us to not forget what you've done; that nothing is too big for you to handle. Thank you for your grace in our lives. Help us be vessels of that grace so that we can help show others the way to eternal freedom.

Share Your Experience This Week
#SevernRun

Getting Started

- What is the hardest choice you've had to make in the last year or so?
- Did you feel like you made the right choice? Why?

Listening Deeply

1. Are you currently being confined or trapped by something in your life? What is it?
2. What would complete freedom look like or feel like to you?
3. If you're a believer, what caused you to originally decide to follow Jesus? If not, what do you feel is it that you're not sure about?
4. In regards to the "Lunatic, Liar, or Lord" theory, which choice do you associate Jesus with, and why do you feel that way?
5. Depending on how you feel about him, do you think that Jesus can free you from the things that you're struggling with?
6. What do you think it's going to take in order for you to accept his gift of freedom from those things?
7. Who do you know that is still confined by their worldly problems? How can you help them get out?

Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus gave us a way out. The biggest decision of our lives is whether or not we're going to accept his free offer, or if we're going to reject it and live our lives trapped in our own problems. There is no cost to us. He paid it all; he paid the ultimate cost so that we wouldn't have to. All we have to do is make a decision. The choice is yours...

- Make a choice! You cannot believe both, and you cannot refuse to decide. It's OK to research and make an informed decision, but don't take too long! We never know when our last breath will be.
- Make a list of all the things that keep you confined. Work on one thing each day, letting go of it and giving it to God. Ask him to help you.
- Live free! Don't be held down by the worldly "junk" that we think rules over our lives. God has taken it all away. Walk joyfully in the freedom he's given you, and don't keep it to yourself...share it!