

FREEDOM

Small Group Leader Guide

WEEK FOUR



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SPIRITUAL ORDER

*Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way,
and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless
until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23 NIV

WEEK FOUR LEADER GUIDE

Overview

God created us with three distinct parts: a spirit that must be redeemed, a soul that must be restored, and a body that must surrender. At the moment of salvation, our spirit is made alive in Christ and immediately put in right standing with God (Romans 3:24, 5:1). The Bible calls this event justification: “just-as-if I had never sinned.” However, the soul and body will require time and effort to be conformed to the image of Christ. This gradual process is called sanctification. God’s plan is that our spirits become the strongest part of our three-part design and be the “command center” of who we are and what we do.

Our souls are also made up of three parts: the mind, the will, and the emotions. The soul enables us to experience relationships, appreciate the beauty of our surroundings, and think, reason, and express emotions. God formed our bodies from the earth. The body acts as a temporary house or shell that contains our soul and spirit. Our bodies have appetites, both good and bad. The Bible says to be careful of any sin that leads to our flesh getting anything it wants. Keeping our flesh in submission to our soul and our soul in submission to our spirit allows us to live in spiritual order, in tune with the voice of God.

Spiritual order provides a framework for living in the Tree of Life. It allows you to live with your spirit united with God, and your soul and body submitted to your spirit. Living in spiritual order brings with it incredible benefits, such as protection, spiritual growth, and power to overcome obstacles in our lives.

Remember, if we fall short or give in to temptation, God convicts; He does not condemn.

Godly sorrow for sin will lead us to repentance, which means “to turn and go the other way.”

To walk in spiritual order, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. He is our counselor, our friend, our guide, and the One who reveals truth.

Discussion Guide

- How does knowing your spirit is redeemed and in right standing with the Father change the way you see yourself?
- Are your thoughts driven by emotions? (Soul)
- Are your actions driven by your cravings? (Body)
- What are you doing to feed your spirit? (Spirit)
- Do you feed your body, soul, or spirit the most?
- What are some ways that you can intentionally feed your spirit to stay in spiritual order?
- What are the benefits of walking in the spirit?

Application

Encourage your participants to be aware throughout this week of times when their soul and body are the strongest and times when their spirit is the strongest of the three.

Prayer Focus

- Pray that the Lord will reveal and reconcile any areas not in spiritual order.
- Pray that your participants develop a desire to know God more by spending time in His Word, in worship, and in prayer so that they can live in spiritual order.