

# Stand For Freedom

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Based on the sermon by Pastor Mirek Hufton

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#### 1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton drew a powerful parallel between America's founding fight for political freedom and the deeper spiritual battle every believer faces daily. He challenged us to understand that all battles -- personal, cultural, and national -- begin in the unseen spiritual realm, and that only the truth of God's Word can equip us to see clearly and stand firmly. He reminded us that true freedom is not given by governments or taken away by culture, but is secured once and for all through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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#### 2. KEY SCRIPTURE

##### Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

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#### 3. ICE BREAKER

Start here to warm up the room -- there are no wrong answers!

> What is one thing you feel genuinely free to do today that you couldn't do -- or wouldn't dare do -- five or ten years ago? It doesn't have to be spiritual!

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#### 4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

##### Question 1 -- Opening Up the Topic

Pastor Mirek used the image of night-vision goggles to describe what the Bible does for believers -- it lets us see what is truly going on in the spiritual realm when everything else looks dark and confusing. In your own life, can you think of a situation where reading or hearing Scripture helped you see something clearly that you simply couldn't see before? What changed for you when you saw it?

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## **Question 2 -- Engaging the Scripture**

In John 8:34, Jesus said, "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." Pastor Mirek pointed out that slavery to sin is not always dramatic or obvious -- sometimes it looks like a quiet habit, a small compromise, or a fear we keep excusing. Without needing to be overly personal, what are some everyday ways people can drift into bondage without even realizing it? How does sin slowly narrow a person's world?

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## **Question 3 -- Going Deeper**

1 John 5:19 tells us "the whole world lies under the sway of the evil one." Pastor Mirek was straightforward: the battle is spiritual, and the enemy's goal is deception, division, and ultimately separation from God. How does understanding that there is a real spiritual battle change the way we respond to difficult news, cultural conflict, or personal struggle? Does it bring you comfort, concern, or both -- and why?

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## **Question 4 -- Personal Honesty**

Pastor Mirek was direct about the danger of being a "nominal" Christian -- someone who carries the label but has no real encounter with the living God and no real fire to stand for what is right. He said, "Any dead fish can float downstream. It takes a live one to go up." What do you think makes the difference between a faith that drifts and a faith that swims upstream? What has helped you personally stay engaged and alive in your walk with God?

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## **Question 5 -- Culture and Courage**

He challenged us that the church must be salt and light -- speaking the truth about morality, the sanctity of life, the family, and the gospel -- even when it costs something socially or professionally. Where do you find it hardest to speak up or stand firm in your own daily environment -- at work, in your family, on social media, or somewhere else? What tends to hold people back, and what could help?

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## **Question 6 -- Application Bridge**

2 Timothy 3:13 warns that "evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." Pastor Mirek reminded us that the antidote to deception is truth -- not Wikipedia, not the news cycle, but the Word of God. How intentional are you currently about feeding on Scripture as your primary lens for understanding the world? What is one honest obstacle that keeps you from spending more time in God's Word?

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## **5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE**

One specific, achievable action to take before your group meets again:

> This week, choose one area of your life where you know you have been drifting, compromising, or quietly avoiding a stand -- whether it is a personal habit, a relationship conversation you have been putting off, or a

fear that keeps you silent. Write it down on a piece of paper or in your journal. Bring it before God in prayer every morning this week, asking Him specifically to give you the courage described in Galatians 5:1 -- to stand fast and not be entangled again. At the end of the week, write down one concrete step you took, however small, to move toward freedom in that area. Come prepared to share what you noticed -- not necessarily what you did -- with the group next time.

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## 6. PRAYER POINTS

Close your time together by praying specifically over these areas:

- For courage in the church -- Pray that God would raise up believers in your group, your church, and across this nation who are willing to stand for truth without fear of what it may cost them socially, professionally, or personally.
  - For personal freedom -- Ask the Holy Spirit to identify any area of bondage, sin, or deception in each group member's life that has been normalized or excused, and pray for the grace to bring it to the cross and walk free this week.
  - For the nation and its foundations -- Pray that God in His providence would awaken a new generation to the spiritual roots of true freedom, and that the church would rise to be the salt and light it was always called to be in this cultural moment.
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## 7. MEMORY VERSE

Work on this verse throughout the week -- say it aloud, write it out, or put it somewhere you will see it daily:

> Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

> "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

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Thank you for leading your group this week. Your willingness to show up and facilitate genuine conversation is itself an act of standing fast. You are making a difference.