

Freedom Prayer Guide 03—

FREEDOM FROM REBELLION

GETTING STARTED:

Prior to doing this freedom step, please listen to the following teachings from Antioch Waco's Journey to Freedom teaching series:

- Journey to Freedom: You Can Be Free
- Journey to Freedom: Jesus Came to Heal the Brokenhearted
- Journey to Freedom: The Process of Freedom
- Journey to Freedom: Freedom from Idolatry
- Journey to Freedom: Freedom from Bitterness
- Journey to Freedom: Freedom from Rebellion

You can listen to these at <https://antiochwaco.com/series/journey-to-freedom/>

In this Freedom Prayer Guide, we are going to take time to prayerfully:

- Identify places we have walked in rebellion
- Confess and repent of the ways we have walked in rebellion.
- Replace our rebellion with submission to Jesus.

REVIEW THE TEACHING:

As a discipleship group discuss what you learned from the sermon Freedom from Rebellion

Key Scriptures from the Teaching:

- *Psalm 68:5-6 (NIV):* "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land."
- *Isaiah 53:6 (NIV):* "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."
- *Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV):* "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.'"
- *Psalm 23.1-3 (NIV):* The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

As a reminder, the big ideas shared in the sermons are:

- In the world we are taught that freedom comes through rebelling against the chains of external leadership, authority, and commitments. The world says that when we are unencumbered by these chains, then we are free. Christian freedom however teaches that true and lasting freedom comes through surrender and submission to the good, wise and loving leadership of Jesus Christ.
- Rebellion against God is seen as a fundamental aspect of sin and leads to bondage. The destructive nature of rebellion against God runs throughout the story line of Scripture and has impacted us all(*Isaiah 53:6*)

- Jesus models godly submission for us. He willingly submitted himself to the leadership of the Father (*Luke 22.42*), the Holy Spirit (*Luke 4.1*) and even at times the desires of people (*John 2.1-12*).
- He shows us that the way to life and freedom is not found in rebelling against God, but in surrendering and submitting to Him (*Matthew 16.24-25*).
- Our discipleship to Jesus leads us to submit to authorities and to one another out of reverence for Christ and is a reflection of Christlike humility (*Ephesians 5.21*).
- Righteous resistance is not the same as rebellion. While generally advocating submission, the Way of Jesus also recognizes times when resisting ungodly authority and evil is necessary (*Exodus 1.17, Acts 5:29, Ephesians 5.11*).

REMEMBER:

God loves you with an everlasting love (*Jeremiah 31:3*) and is with you (*Hebrews 13.5*). As we go through this freedom prayer experience, we want to encounter God in fresh ways and let Him love us, free us, heal us and transform us (*Revelation 1.4-5*) into people who love Him and love others wholeheartedly (*Mark 12.30-31*).

As we go through each step, be attentive to the Holy Spirit's leadership and guidance.

Opening Prayer:

Have someone lead out in praying this guided prayer over your group:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the freedom that comes through submitting to your Lordship. Please search our hearts, our thoughts and our lives and reveal to us any places we have been walking in rebellion to you and your ways, and in so doing have opened my life up to the destruction that rebellion brings (1 Samuel 15.23, Proverbs 29.1, Proverbs 3.5-6).

CONFESS:

A simple working definition of confession is *agreeing with God's perspective on a topic*.

Scripture gives us a great promise for the power of confession:

- *1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*
- *Proverbs 28:13: "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."*

During this phase of the freedom journey, we want to turn to God's Word and God's Spirit to highlight to us place where we have walked in rebellion, and then we are going to take time to prayerfully confess this.

Rebellion Inventory:

Here are some examples from Scripture of ways people walked in rebellion against the Lord. Read over these examples and note any that you can relate to from your own life.

- **Adam and Eve:** In Genesis 3, the first humans rebelled against God's leadership in their lives by wanting to be their own gods and chart their own path. This rebellion unleashed death and destruction in its wake.
- **King Saul:** In 1 Samuel 13:8-14, Saul grew impatient waiting for Samuel to arrive and offer sacrifices before a battle. Saul did not want to wait on God's timing and took matters into his own hands in a way that violated God's commands. The fruit of this rebellion cost Saul the kingdom.
- **King Absalom:** In 2 Samuel chapters 13-18, Absalom rebelled against God's leadership in his life by rebelling against his family. The fruit of his rebellion brought destruction to his own life and civil war in his nation.
- **King Solomon:** In 1 Kings 11, Solomon rebelled against God's leadership in his life, by pursuing relationships the Lord had told him not to pursue. The fruit of this rebellion brought destruction to his kingdom.
- **Jezebel:** In 2 Kings 9:22, Jezebel rebelled against God's leadership in her life through practicing sorcery in order to control and use power for her own ends.
- **Jonah:** In the Book of Jonah, the prophet Jonah rebels against God's leadership and direction for his life because of his bitterness toward the people of Nineveh.
- **The Israelites in the wilderness:** In Numbers 14, the Israelites rebelled against God's leadership by refusing to enter the Promised Land due to fear of its inhabitants. This rebellion resulted in 40 years of wandering in the desert.
- **King Nebuchadnezzar:** In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar rebelled against God's leadership by exalting himself and refusing to acknowledge God's sovereignty. This rebellion led to him being driven from human society for seven years.
- **The Pharisees:** Their rebellion against God was expressed through their valuing things opposite of God's values (Matthew 23:23-24).
- **Ananias and Sapphira:** In Acts 5:1-11, this couple rebelled against God's leadership in the early church by lying about their offering. Their rebellion resulted in immediate judgment and death.

Places of Rebellion:

As you review the above list, prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any way you have walked in rebellion like those above, or other things like these that may not be mentioned on this list. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your remembrance.

REPENT:

A working definition of repentance encompasses **experiencing godly sorrow over your sin** (2 *Corinthians* 7.10), turning away from that sin and turning towards the Lord (1 *Thess* 1.9), as well as bearing the fruit of genuine change (*Matt.* 3.8). The Lord extends mercy and forgiveness to the repentant (*Isaiah* 55.7).

After everyone has prayerfully considered the Rebellion Inventory, bring the group back together and cast vision for how to respond.

As we have identified places of rebellion that have been a part of our past, or that we currently struggle with, we have an opportunity to experience the freeing power of Jesus as we confess and repent of these places of sin, receive forgiveness and extend forgiveness to others.

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- *2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV): "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."*
- *Acts 3:19 (NIV): "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."*
- *(2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV): "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

As we confess our sins and repent of them (forsake them) we will find fresh mercy, healing, forgiveness and cleansing in our lives and times of refreshing from God's Spirit.

Use your inventory above and the guided prayer below to confess and repent of areas of walking in rebellion and to receive the forgiveness and cleansing power of Jesus.

Guided Prayer of Confession, Repentance and Receiving Forgiveness:

Lord, I confess that I have been rebellious toward _____ by _____ (say what you did specifically) _____. Thank You for forgiving my rebellion. I choose now to be submissive and obedient to Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Is there anything you need to do to practically as a next step in bearing the fruit of repentance?

REPLACE:

Repentance leads to sin being replaced with new life, healing and renewal.

Underneath our rebellion are often places where we are brokenhearted by fear, grief and pain. As we repent of our rebellion, Jesus wants to replace it with healing for our broken hearts (*Luke 4.18*) that we might live out our calling to follow Him.

Use this guided prayer to receive a fresh healing in the place of the fears, grief and pain that has undergirded your rebellion.

Jesus, thank you that you see my fear, grief and pain and want to heal me. As I repent of my rebellion and walk in submission to you, I open up my heart and life to you in a fresh way and ask for you to heal my heart.

Take time to sit in silence for 1-2 minutes and listen to the Lord. Pay attention to what you sense the Holy Spirit doing in you and speaking to you during this time.

After a minute or two have each person in the group share what they sense the Spirit speaking or doing in them.

RESTORE:

How are you going to walk forward and not return to the ways of rebellion?

As you go this week, meditate on these Scriptures:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.