

ALIVE

+

FREE

WEEK 2

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class.

Much of the groaning and frustration in the world is actually an unconscious homesickness for the way things were created to be. The resurrection of Jesus is heaven's declaration that things on earth will be made right again. But Jesus' resurrection also offers the promise and the power to start being who we were created to be right now. We can start today to experience the liberation that is coming one day. We can begin heading home free.

1 The hardest chains to break are the ones that are never acknowledged. *"I don't have a problem"* is almost always a problem. The path to freedom cannot shortcut ruthless personal honesty. What are some of the most common ways that we deny that we are in bondage?

2 Most people don't deny freedom's necessity; they deny its possibility. It is tempting to just accept bondage as normal. Why is that incongruent with the implications of the resurrection of Jesus? **Read Romans 7:24-25.** What encouragement does Paul give us?

3 **Read Luke 15:17-20a.** The battle for freedom must first be won in the mind. Behind all loss of freedom is a lie. What are some of the big lies behind the common bondages to lust, drugs and alcohol, materialism, shame and guilt, etc.?

4 There is no breakout without a breakthrough in your thinking. Can you think of a time when you had a breakthrough in thinking that led to freedom? Explain.

5 You cannot blame your way to freedom. Freedom is first of all an "inside job." Reflect on Paul and Silas in prison in Acts 16. How is it possible to be free in the midst of difficult circumstances?

6 Many people in bondage allow where they are to become who they are. **Read Luke 15:20b-24.** The prodigal son heads home with his "hired servant plan." But God only lets his children return one way...**home free.** In what ways can slavery become our identity? Why is claiming our true identity in Christ freedom's first step?

ACTION STEP Have you claimed your true identity in Christ? Don't let the world tell you who you are; let your Father tell you who you are. You are not who you used to be, but you are who He recreated you in Christ Jesus to be. God is doing a work in you more powerful than any chain, so claim it by faith and start walking in freedom (not as a slave but as His child). This week read **Luke 15:11-24** each day and give thanks to your Father that He isn't just wanting you home; He's wanting you **home free.** What do you need to stop and start doing today?