



Believers in Bondage

Focus Believers can be in bondage to Satan through sin, sickness and demonic influences we allow into our lives.

Fun What songs have been playing in your head today? Would you be comfortable singing a few lines for the group or just saying them aloud?

Review Key Scriptures: John 8:31–36; Luke 13:11–16; Mark 7:24–30

Three open doors to bondage in our lives:

- *Continued Iniquity* (Romans 6:16, Jeremiah 7:8–11)
Like the believers Jesus spoke to in John 8, we can be blind to our own bondage. We sometimes see continued sin in our lives as merely weakness, not bondage that leads to death. We can't be set free until we see we're in bondage.
- *Continued Illness* (Deuteronomy 28:58–61; Acts 10:38; Acts 19:11–12)
In Luke 13, Jesus healed a woman whose sickness was caused by a spirit of infirmity. Not all sickness is demonic, but some sicknesses have a spiritual root. Continued illness can be a sign that there is an open door to the Enemy in our lives.
- *Continued Influence* (Deuteronomy 18:9–12; Revelation 22:14–15)
Jesus cast an evil spirit out of the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman. This woman's cultural heritage included significant instances of Jewish beliefs being mixed with the occult. Many Christians today have a similar mixture in their lives when they dabble in the occult but pridefully believe that it will not affect them. When we expose ourselves to the occult, we open the door to the Enemy.

Discuss

1. Which of the three stories from the Bible spoke most to you—the sons of Abraham, the woman with the spirit of infirmity or the Syro-Phoenician woman? Why?
2. One of the areas where Satan will steal from us is our health. Have you (or someone you know) ever had a sickness or injury that was demonic? How did you recognize it was demonic? How did you pray for healing?
3. Read John 8:34–36. What are some sins that we might be tempted to call weaknesses instead of bondage? How does our identity as children of God help us walk in freedom from sin?
4. The occult is openly embraced in our culture today. Sometimes it is hard to discern what is occult because it is packaged in humor or mainstream entertainment. How would you help a new believer learn to recognize and avoid the harmful influence of the occult?
5. In Mark 7:27, Jesus referred to deliverance as “the children’s bread.” Think about that analogy. Who gives the bread? Who are the children? How often do they eat? How do the children access the bread? How much bread is there?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus can set you free from all bondage to sin.
- If you are often ill, you can ask God if there is an open door in your life.
- The first step to freedom is to humble yourself and ask God to help you.

Pray

Pray for each group member to receive freedom in whatever area of their lives that they need it.

Group Dynamics Idea Schedule a fun movie night, dinner out or a play day at the park for the whole group.

New Leader Tip Try incorporating one or two worship songs at the beginning of your group meeting. Ask a group member to lead worship, or play recorded music.