



WEEK 3

JESUS.

BONDAGE BREAKER.

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WEEK 3

GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION:

To open your group time, read the following introduction aloud.

"If the Son shall set you free you are free indeed!" These words from John 8:36 are a healing balm to those in spiritual and emotional bondage. Sin, Satan, past hurts and lies hold us in bondage. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus is the Bondage Breaker.

Jesus is the Bondage Breaker because He is fully God and fully man. John 1:1-18 declares that Jesus is the Word and the Word is God. Being God, Jesus has life in Himself and this life is the light of men. Jesus reveals God to us and fills our lives with grace and truth. **At the name of Jesus, Satan must flee and His power is broken.** The deity of Jesus insures His spiritual authority.

Jesus is the Bondage Breaker because His purpose in coming to earth was to destroy the works of the devil. The devil is a liar, a murderer and a thief. He seeks to kill, steal and destroy. **But Jesus has come to give us an abundant life.** Jesus has all authority over sickness, sin, satan and anything that would oppose God and attack His people. By virtue of Jesus' resurrection, ascension and seating, Jesus is head over all things and we are more than conquerors in Him.

The mission, authority and resurrection reality of Jesus, place Him in a unique position of being able to break the chains of the enemy and to bring His people into security and rest.

Jesus is the Bondage Breaker because He removes our guilt, heals our hearts and casts out evil spirits from our lives. Jesus washes us clean and takes away our shame. Jesus exercises His authority over the demonic and sets captives free. The ministry of Jesus is to heal and set free. Jesus does this because He is the Bondage Breaker.

VIDEO SEGMENT

Now, as a group, turn on your TV or Laptop and watch the video for Week 3,
JESUS THE BONDAGE BREAKER

2 ways to watch:

1. Go to crosslinechurch.com/mml
2. Go to vimeo.com/album/5382165

After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.

READ:

Mark 5:1-20; 2:12

Jesus and His followers came to the other side of the sea to the country of the Gerasenes. ²He got out of the boat. At once a man came to Him from among the graves. This man had a demon. ³He lived among the graves. No man could tie him, even with chains. ⁴Many times he had been tied with chains on his feet. He had broken the chains as well as the irons from his hands and legs. No man was strong enough to keep him tied. ⁵Night and day he was among the graves and in the mountains. He would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶When the man with the demon saw Jesus a long way off, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷The man spoke with a loud voice and said, "What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I ask You, in the name of God, do not hurt me!"

⁸At the same time, Jesus was saying, "Come out of the man, you demon!" ⁹Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" He said, "My name is Many, for there are many of us." ¹⁰The demons asked Jesus not to send them out of the country.

¹¹There were many pigs feeding on the mountain side. ¹²The demons asked Him saying, "Send us to the pigs that we may go into them." ¹³ Then Jesus let them do what they wanted to do. So they went into the pigs. The pigs ran fast down the side of the mountain and into the sea and died. There were about 2,000. ¹⁴The men who cared for the pigs ran fast to the town and out to the country telling what had been done. People came to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man who had had the demons. He was sitting with clothes on and in his right mind. The men were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told what had happened to the man who had had the demons. They told what had happened to the pigs. ¹⁷Then they asked Jesus to leave their country.

¹⁸ Jesus got into the boat. The man who had had the demons asked to go with Him. ¹⁹ Jesus would not let him go but said to him, "Go home to your own people. Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you. Tell them how He had pity on you." ²⁰ The man went his way and told everyone in the land of Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him. All the people were surprised and wondered.

¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Eph. 1:18-20

I pray that your hearts will be able to understand. I pray that you will know about the hope given by God's call. I pray that you will see how great the things are that He has promised to those who belong to Him. ¹⁹ I pray that you will know how great His power is for those who have put their trust in Him. ²⁰ It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. This same power put Christ at God's right side in heaven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Answer the following questions together in your group time.

1. Since the Bible describes Jesus as God, what authority do you think Jesus possesses?
2. Looking at Mark 5:1-20, what was the response of the man who was demonized after Jesus set him free?
3. Jesus frees people from bondage and loves people unconditionally. How are freedom and love transformative in a person's life?
4. When you look at your own life and the lives of others, what are some of the things that hold us in bondage?
5. What are some things we may need to lay down to truly experience the freedom from bondage that Jesus offers?

Now take some time to talk about any additional question or thoughts that came from the video, the reading, or the discussion

APPLY POINT

Try to take some time this week to clarify in your own mind what things hold you in bondage. (E.g. Make a list, share with a friend, ask a spouse, etc.)

GOING DEEPER

To have a deeper group or personal study around Jesus as the Bondage Breaker, go to the "Going Deeper" section of week 3 starting on page 83.

PRAYER REQUESTS



NOTES



WEEK 3

DAILY READINGS

DAY 11: TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE

Grant Gunther

"What you accomplished last year is in the past. If you want to win it all again this year, you need to work harder now, since everyone is going to be gunning for you." Entering into my senior year of playing football at Tesoro High School this was the constant refrain coming from our coaches. We had won our first ever CIF championship the previous year, and the coaches were constantly pushing us to stay hungry, to keep competing, to keep practicing hard. It could have been so easy for us as a team to say we won it all last year, so winning it all again this year should be easier, but our coaches knew better. Instead of letting us bask in the glory of the previous year's title they kept on us seniors to establish our own identity by winning another championship.

Jesus experienced laziness similar to my senior year with football in the people of Israel. In John 8 Jesus shares that those who continue or remain in his word will know the truth and be set free from sin. However, the Israelites listening push back against Jesus' word, claiming they have no need to be set free, because they are children of Abraham. Rather than recognizing their present need to be set free by Jesus, they let their past accomplishments (being descendants of Abraham) be what justifies them. Truly justified and freed people from sin know that their freedom only comes through a relationship with Jesus though. They know that no matter their personal accolades or how great their past accomplishments might be, true freedom is found in Christ alone.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Praise Jesus that he came to set us free from sin and its penalty! Praise Jesus that what we could never accomplish on our own, he accomplished for us through his life, death and resurrection! Each day would we desire to continue to know and abide with Jesus and his word, so that we might be reminded of where our freedom really comes from and be encouraged to live our lives fully for him.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus thank you for coming to set me free!

*Often times I can so easily focus on myself,
and lose sight of my need to be set free from my sin by You.*

*Create in me a desire to abide daily with You that I won't forget where
my freedom truly comes from, and that I might follow You wherever You
lead me.*

Amen.

DAY 12: TRULY SET FREE

Greg Munck

I'm a blessed and thankful man but my life has not been easy to say the least. Someone asked me once, "If you could change one thing about your past what would it be?" I don't have enough time today to list all the things that flashed through my mind, but here are a few of the highlights: Numerous trips to the hospital for stitches, doing drugs with my dad in 7th grade, being evicted and moving constantly as a youth, that first fist fight with my dad so he wouldn't drive drunk, my girlfriend telling me she was pregnant when I was 16, my dad missing many of my birthdays, my money being stolen by my family, seeing my father beaten from head to toe lying in blood-soaked sheets, fighting in combat, bagging and tagging body parts of my fellow soldiers. I could go on, but for now you get the picture.

As I thought about the question of what I would change, I responded with, "I would not change a thing!" Say what?! Why you may ask. Because all those things have made me the man I am today. If you take some of those things away you take away part of the complexity of who Greg Munck is. The most unexpected Renaissance man you have ever met. All kidding aside, I'm amazed how God takes our worst and uses it for his best. The good, the bad and the ugly of my story has impacted the lives of 100's over the years. It is amazing how we spend so much time and energy trying to keep ourselves and the ones we love from conflict, suffering, difficulty, testing and problems that we forget that God uses those exact things to mold us and shape us into who we are suppose to be. Think about the times you have grown the most as a human being, was it during the times of zero conflict and no stress or during those times of testing, suffering and trials that you actually grew the most. For me and I'm sure for you it was the latter.

God understands our plight. The spiritual implications of today's verses in Hebrews are gigantic.

Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. (Heb. 2:15)

That God in 3 distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) took the form of a man (Son-Jesus Christ), so he could empathize with

us, so He could feel our frailty to show us grace and compassion in our time of need! Most important of all since He could die, that made him the perfect sacrifice to take away all of our sins past, present, and future. Remember what Christ has done for you and do not allow fear of suffering, trials and even death to steal your joy. Live a bold and purposeful life knowing that you have been truly set free from all of those things!

PRAYER

*Mighty God, you have been and always are sovereign in my life.
Lord God, I ask that you would use me in a powerful way no matter what
I am going through. Help me to not live in fear and help me to know
that I am your loved child!
Amen.*

DAY 13: JUST LET ME DO IT

Sarah Aungst

"No thank you, I can do it." If you are anything like me, you say this often. I confess that I am a stubborn individual that attempts to do all things themselves. I will start a project (like fixing a plugged sink, sewing a hole in my favorite jacket, removing a salsa stain, or refurbishing furniture) and sometime in the middle of the task my helpful family members and friends will humbly offer help or wisdom. So kind right!?! Right! However, 99% of the time I refuse. I refuse because I want to feel like I am working hard and my pride wants the success of a mastered task.

The only problem is that these tasks rarely come out as planned. They may come out clumsy or mediocre. They may even just stay completely stuck like the lid of a pickle jar that I attempt to wrestle open on my own. If I am honest, my projects turn out MUCH better when someone, typically my twin sister, pushes me aside and firmly suggests, "Just let me do it."

Isn't this similar to how we are with Jesus? We try to do everything on our own. We try to clean ourselves up. We try to change our hearts and actions. We try to transform ourselves. When, all the while, He is trying to remind us that He has done it and is doing it. In the midst of a confusing time Paul reminds the people of Colossae about who Jesus is, what He did for them, and what He will continue to do so they could see that they have all the help they need in Jesus:

For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. You were also circumcised in Him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of the Messiah. Having been buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. (Colossians 2:9-13)

Wherever you are at today, imagine Jesus is gently pushing you aside and saying, "Just let me do it." You have been **filled**

BY HIM and are **being transformed IN HIM**. We are a project that we cannot do alone. In Him you have been fulfilled, freed, buried & raised, made alive, and forgiven.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for what you have done for me.

Thank you for forgiving me, saving me, and transforming me.

I am sorry for how I have tried to do it on my own and I thank you for the reminder to let you do your work in me. Jesus help me to live in you and by you. Amen.

DAY 14: WHEN THE LIGHT BREAKS THROUGH

Taylor Jones

I can tell you this much about being alone in the woods in the dark of night, ten miles from the closest other person: it is eerie. Think, “Blair Witch Project” eerie—the disorienting darkness, the stillness of the night air, the unsettling sounds from just beyond the reach of a flashlight. To clarify, I was on assignment for a writing class. Tasked with spending an extended time alone in the woods and writing about the experience, I had set out for an overnight backpacking trip in the Los Padres National Forest.

The hike to the area in which I was to camp took longer than I expected and I arrived at my destination after dark. And fumbling in the darkness, it was also more difficult than I expected to get a fire started. After about an hour of failing to get the dense oak firewood that I hastily collected to catch flame, I had given up hope of a campfire. But after resigning myself to an unsettled night in the dark, light finally broke through. While I lay sleepless in my sleeping bag a few feet away, the embers of my attempted fire finally ignited the wood stacked above and caught flame. The light of the fire changed everything about my experience. The woods that had seemed foreboding and dangerous in the dark now seemed beautiful, even cozy in the fire’s warm glow. Everything changed when the light broke through. If going from darkness to firelight changed everything for me that night, imagine going from lifelong blindness to instant sight. This is what we see play out in Matthew chapter 9.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days and at the end of them he was hungry. The Devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone.” Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. (Luke 4:1-4, 14)

Jesus was physically and emotionally weak but God was with Him, in Him, and coming out of Him victoriously to defeat the Tempter. His secret weapons? The Holy Spirit and God’s word.

He was full of and led by the Spirit before, during and after. And when the suggestion to compromise his commitment to God came, he plunged God's word into the heart of the lie, killing the temptation by openly hurling truth into the Suggester's offer. God has given every believer these same weapons to defeat our temptations and break our bondages. They are weapons we must use today.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for not compromising your love for God and me when you were tempted.

Thank you that you live in me and want me to experience victory today over all temptation and compromise.

Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Lead my thoughts.

Call to mind your word. Open my mouth to speak your truth out loud in the face of any suggestion to compromise my faith. Help me to fight like you today!

In Your name, Amen.

DAY 15: FEELING LOW? WATCH OUT!

Kenny Luck

Adversity makes all of us vulnerable. Take your pick - an unexpected cancer, unrelenting circumstances, unexpected losses, or an unwelcomed ending to a relationship, career, or dream can throw even the strongest among us into a tailspin of self-pity, cynicism, and depression. Things don't go as we expected or hoped leaving us a little dazed, confused, or even angry at God. We look up to the sky and say, "Really?"

The simple fact of the matter is that when we are feeling low, lonely or like life isn't fair, we are open to any suggestion that provides relief. Bad feelings feel bad! So, it's normal to want to feel good again or at least less bad. In fact, the Devil relishes our adverse circumstances and the negative emotions that go with them. For him they are like a FLAMMABLE liquid which is easily set on fire with one well-timed, well-thrown, and well-lit suggestion that - if accepted - will produce great bondages we could never foresee.

In Luke's Gospel, we find Jesus super-depleted, in Satan's crosshairs, and being offered solutions that will give temporary relief or satisfaction but demand that he act out of character as God's Son. Like us at times, he's alone in his circumstances, physically depleted, and vulnerable to attack. In his own state of human weakness, Jesus shows us how, in God's family, we defeat both the tempter and the temptation by defeating evil suggestions. His keys to his victory are ours as well.

nd as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. (Matt 9:27-31)

In the life of Jesus, the kingdom of heaven broke into our broken world. He healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out demons and

gave sight to the blind. Jesus continues to be our physical healer and there is coming a day when He will come again and open every blind eye. But Jesus' miracles not only invite us to seek Him as our healer physically, but also as our bondage breaker spiritually. The Bible repeatedly uses blindness to describe our spiritual condition apart from an intervention from God. Whatever is causing you spiritual blindness—sin habits that feel enslaving, vain hope in things that could never really satisfy, lies told to you by our enemy—an encounter with Jesus is what gives sight. **Praise God that Jesus breaks through the darkness!** Jesus, our sight-giver. Jesus, our freedom. Jesus, our light in darkness.

PRAYER

*Lord, thank you that You break through the darkness!
There is more that blinds my heart than I even know and I praise You
that You are able to set me free. Please empower me by Your Spirit to
set my heart on You, to see myself and the world around me as You do,
and to hope in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.*



WEEK 3

GOING DEEPER

FOR DEEPER GROUP OR PERSONAL STUDY, GO THROUGH PASTOR JP'S STUDY OUTLINE:

Jesus the Bondage Breaker

The ministry of Jesus is to heal and set free. Jesus does this because He is the Bondage Breaker.

Look at it

Read the following passages:

Mark 1:23-26

There was a man in the Jewish place of worship who had a demon. The demon cried out, ²⁴ "What do You want of us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know Who You are. You are the Holy One of God." ²⁵ Jesus spoke sharp words to the demon and said, "Do not talk! Come out of the man!" ²⁶ The demon threw the man down and gave a loud cry. Then he came out of him.

Mark 1:29-34

Jesus and His followers came out of the Jewish place of worship. Then they went to the house of Simon and Andrew. James and John went with them. ³⁰ They told Jesus about Simon's mother-in-law who was in bed, very sick. ³¹ He went and took her by the hand and raised her up. At once her sickness was gone. She got up and cared for them.

³² In the evening as the sun went down, the people took all who were sick to Jesus. They took those who had demons to Him. ³³ All the town gathered at the door. ³⁴ Jesus healed those who were sick of many kinds of diseases. He put out many demons. Jesus would not allow the demons to speak because they knew Who He was.

Mark 5:1-20

Jesus and His followers came to the other side of the sea to the country of the Gerasenes. ² He got out of the boat. At once a man came to Him from among the graves. This man had a demon. ³ He lived among the graves. No man could

tie him, even with chains.⁴ Many times he had been tied with chains on his feet. He had broken the chains as well as the irons from his hands and legs. No man was strong enough to keep him tied.⁵ Night and day he was among the graves and in the mountains. He would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶When the man with the demon saw Jesus a long way off, he ran and worshiped Him.⁷ The man spoke with a loud voice and said, "What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I ask You, in the name of God, do not hurt me!"⁸ At the same time, Jesus was saying, "Come out of the man, you demon!"⁹ Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" He said, "My name is Many, for there are many of us."¹⁰ The demons asked Jesus not to send them out of the country.¹¹ There were many pigs feeding on the mountain side.¹² The demons asked Him saying, "Send us to the pigs that we may go into them."¹³ Then Jesus let them do what they wanted to do. So they went into the pigs. The pigs ran fast down the side of the mountain and into the sea and died. There were about 2,000.¹⁴ The men who cared for the pigs ran fast to the town and out to the country telling what had been done. People came to see what had happened.¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man who had had the demons. He was sitting with clothes on and in his right mind. The men were afraid.¹⁶ Those who had seen it told what had happened to the man who had had the demons. They told what had happened to the pigs.¹⁷ Then they asked Jesus to leave their country.

¹⁸ Jesus got into the boat. The man who had had the demons asked to go with Him.¹⁹ Jesus would not let him go but said to him, "Go home to your own people. Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you. Tell them how He had pity on you."²⁰ The man went his way and told everyone in the land of Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him. All the people were surprised and wondered.

Mark 6:34

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Mark 5:24-34

Jesus went with him. Many people followed and pushed around Jesus. ²⁵ A woman had been sick for twelve years with a flow of blood. ²⁶ She had suffered much because of having many doctors. She had spent all the money she had. She had received no help, but became worse. ²⁷ She heard about Jesus and went among the people who were following Him. She touched His coat. ²⁸ For she said to herself, "If I can only touch His coat, I will be healed." ²⁹ At once the flow of blood stopped. She felt in her body that she was healed of her sickness.

³⁰ At the same time Jesus knew that power had gone from Him. He turned and said to the people following Him, "Who touched My coat?" ³¹ His followers said to Him, "You see the many people pushing on every side. Why do You ask, 'Who touched My coat?'" ³² He looked around to see who had done it. ³³ The woman was filled with fear when she knew what had happened to her. She came and got down before Jesus and told Him the truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your sickness."

1. What do all these stories have in common?

2. From what types of bondage does Jesus set people free?

3. What do these stories tell you about Jesus? What observations can you make about His power, His heart for people, His purpose in people's lives?

Understand it

According to the New Testament, Jesus is the unique God-Man who has divine authority over all things. John 1:1-18 and Philippians 2:5-11 say this about the nature and authority of Jesus:

John 1:1-5, 14-18

The Word (Christ) was in the beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ He made all things. Nothing was made without Him making it. ⁴ Life began by Him. His Life was the Light for men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness. The darkness has never been able to put out the Light...

¹⁴ Christ became human flesh and lived among us. We saw His shining-greatness. This greatness is given only to a much-loved Son from His Father. He was full of loving-favor and truth.

¹⁵ John told about Christ and said, "I have been telling you about this One. I said, 'He is coming after me. He is more important than I because He lived before me.'" ¹⁶ From Him Who has so much we have all received loving-favor, one loving-favor after another. ¹⁷ The Law was given through Moses, but loving-favor and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ The much-loved Son is beside the Father. No man has ever seen God. But Christ has made God known to us.

Philippians 2:5-11

Think as Christ Jesus thought. ⁶ Jesus has always been as God is. But He did not hold to His rights as God. ⁷ He put aside everything that belonged to Him and made Himself the same as a servant who is owned by someone. He became human by being born as a man. ⁸ After He became a man, He gave up His important place and obeyed by dying on a cross. ⁹ Because of this, God lifted Jesus high above everything else. He gave Him a name that is greater than any other name. ¹⁰ So when the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow down

before Him. ¹¹ And every tongue will say Jesus Christ is Lord. Everyone will give honor to God the Father.

Jesus' authority extends over all created things; over all things good and evil; over all human, angelic and demonic beings. Jesus has authority over anything that could put us in bondage.

Based on **Romans 8:31-39**:

What can we say about all these things? Since God is for us, who can be against us? ³² God did not keep His own Son for Himself but gave Him for us all. Then with His Son, will He not give us all things? ³³ Who can say anything against the people God has chosen? It is God Who says they are right with Himself ³⁴ Who then can say we are guilty? It was Christ Jesus Who died. He was raised from the dead. He is on the right side of God praying to Him for us. ³⁵ Who can keep us away from the love of Christ? Can trouble or problems? Can suffering wrong from others or having no food? Can it be because of no clothes or because of danger or war? ³⁶ The Holy Writings say, "Because of belonging to Jesus, we are in danger of being killed all day long. We are thought of as sheep that are ready to be killed." ³⁷ But we have power over all these things through Jesus Who loves us so much. ³⁸ For I know that nothing can keep us from the love of God. Death cannot! Life cannot! Angels cannot! Leaders cannot! Any other power cannot! Hard things now or in the future cannot! ³⁹ The world above or the world below cannot! Any other living thing cannot keep us away from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. How does the authority and love of Jesus free us from bondage?

