



### Preparation:

- Before Your Group Meets
  - Spend time prayerfully engaging the select verses that are used throughout this week's session.
  - Read through all the material so you'll be able to better facilitate the discussion.
  - Think through ways you can further help your group learn what is being taught instead of simply rehashing what's been taught in Freedom. Write down two or three ideas.
- When Your Group Meets
  - Summarize the "Intro."
  - Call on group members to read the passages corresponding to the appropriate question.
  - Walk your group through each question. Use the "Leader Guide" to facilitate the group discussion.
  - Discuss the "Moving Forward" section with your group and help them formulate specific plans for moving forward.
  - Share with your group the resources from the "Keep Digging" section.
  - End in a time of prayer

### Intro:

The gifts of leadership and exhortation are vital to the church and its function. The gift of leadership is defined as a God given ability to influence people to pursue the vision that God has given them. Exhortation is the God given ability to encourage others in trying times, to do things that they never thought possible, or to come out of sin to pursue and live a godly life. I know that each of us have been impacted to go in a certain direction and encouraged by people with both of these gifts. Maybe even now you look back and see how those two gifts have directly caused you to be where you are right now.

### Definitions:

1. Spiritual Gifts: *any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.*
2. Leadership: *God given ability to influence people to pursue the vision God has given them*

3. Exhortation: *the God given ability to encourage others in trying times or when they are beginning to wane in their walk with the Lord*

### Discussion Questions:

#### Why is the gift leadership needed in the Church?

*Read: Rom. 12:6-8, Prov. 11:14, Matthew 23:1-12, Prov. 19:21*

1. Why is the gift of leadership important in the church?
2. What do Jesus' words in Matthew 23 tell us is important for us to understand about godly leadership? (as a godly leader, and as someone under leadership)

#### Godly Leadership:

*Read: Prov. 3:5&6, Prov. 11:14, Prov. 10:9, Mark 10:42-45, Prov. 12:15, Prov. 15:22*

3. According to these verses, what should be characteristic of godly leadership?
4. What is the promise if a leader acknowledges God in all they do? What are practical ways for leaders to acknowledge God in all they do?

#### Why is exhortation important in the church?

*Read: 1 Cor. 12:7, John 8:1-11, Matt. 14:22-33*

5. What is the purpose of the gift of exhortation in the Church?
6. What is the motivation of someone with the gift of exhortation? What is usually their underlying hope in exhorting or encouraging other believers?
7. Can you think of some people you know with the gift of exhortation/encouragement? How has God used this people in your life to push you closer to Jesus?
8. What are some ways that believers with this gift have encouraged you to do things that you didn't think were possible? Have there been times when they have encouraged you through trying times? How did God use them?

### Review:

Scripture tells us that the Spirit apportions to each believer gifts. These are different than the Fruit of the Spirit, to be used in the building up



and edification of the church and are best cultivated in community with other believers where we can practice and use our gifts to carry out the purpose of the Church.