

## Get Out Of The Cage

### Freedom is outside of the cage Galatians 3:22

*"But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe." (Galatians 3:22)*

- **We were not born free**  
*"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." (Psalm 51:5)*
- **Life in the cage might look like freedom, it might smell like freedom, but it's not freedom**
- **What are the things in your life here on earth that keep you in chains?**

### Only Jesus can unlock the cage Galatians 5:1

*"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)*

- **We spend a lot of time looking to unlock the cage ourselves never finding the right key.**  
*"Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free." (Psalm 118:5)*  
*"And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2)*  
*"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10)*
- **What are some of the "keys" you've tried in your past that you thought would lead to freedom?**

### Only we can step out of the cage Galatians 5:13

*"You, my brothers, were called to be free." (Galatians 5:13)*

- **We often put off a relationship with Jesus for a time when He will be more convenient for us.**  
*"But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you." (Acts 24:24-25)*
- **What prisoners have been set free but prefer to stay in their chains?**

## Response:

We can come up with a lot of reasons not enter into a relationship with Jesus, even though He is the path to freedom. This speaks to the human condition in every way. The path to freedom requires some discipline, some courage and some commitment. If you want financial freedom, you need to create a budget and live by it. If you want freedom in your health, you have to pass up on another slice of pizza and a scoop of ice cream and ask for more broccoli, maybe even go for a run. When we go against the will of God and act outside of His standard for us, it is called sin. Jesus alone has unlocked the door for us to have freedom in each and every part of our lives. This is hopeful. He not only has the power to release us from our locked-up lives, but as He begins to change us from the inside out, our families grow healthier. It's not automatic and it's not easy, but it is best.

From what places in your own life do you need to be set free so that you might begin to live free?

Think through these areas of your life: Personally, Marriage, Children, Work, Friendships

How can you bring these to Jesus today?

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## Next Steps:

The transition from knowing that you have been set free by Jesus and actually living free is a process that requires patience. It also requires a strong community of people to grow with. At Calvary Church, we see the place for building that community in LifeGroups. To get connected into a LifeGroup, visit [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups) online.

Beyond that, we want to do things together in community. We encourage you to step out and join us at the many events we have going on this summer. Here are just a few:

- Family Movie Night:** July 16 at 7:00 pm in front of the Gym. Join for a FREE family-friendly movie and popcorn under the stars. Learn more at [calvarylife.org/children](http://calvarylife.org/children)
- Church Picnic:** August 3 at 12:30 pm at Irvine Regional Park (Group Area 1). Pack up the whole family to join Calvary for an old-fashioned church picnic (potluck style), games, relays, and fun! Fried chicken and drinks are provided. Please bring the following based on your last name beginning with:
  - A-H: Salads (fruit or green)
  - I-P: Sides (corn, chips, pasta, etc.)
  - Q-Z: Desserts (cookies, cake, etc.)
- Beach Baptisms & Church Bonfire:** August 24 at 5:00 pm at Little Corona del Mar. Come to be baptized or celebrate with those being baptized! After the baptisms, wrap up the summer with hot dogs, s'mores, and fun! If you would like to be baptized, come to the required one-hour, one-time class about baptism on August 17 at 8:45 am or 10:45 am in the Prayer Room (Worship Center). Learn more at the Baptism Class, Beach Baptisms, or the Church Bonfire at [calvarylife.org/baptism](http://calvarylife.org/baptism)

## LifeGroup Discussion:

- Do you agree with the idea that we are not born free, but rather, born into sin?  
Here are some verses to consider: Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:2-3; Proverbs 22:15; Genesis 8:21
- What are some of the "keys" you've tried in your past that you thought would lead to freedom? In other words, what are the other paths you've taken over the course of your life to try to find happiness apart from Jesus? How did that turn out?
- What prisoners have been set free but prefer to stay in their chains? What are the areas in your life that you know you have been forgiven and set free by Jesus, but you live like you are still in chains? Read through Romans 7:14-25 to see Paul's wrestling with this very issue.