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**WEEK 1**

**COMMUNICATE PRIOR TO MEETING:** Prior to your first gathering confirm with everyone a) your address b) when they can arrive c) remind them to bring their FREEDOM workbook d) excitement for this journey—that you are praying for them and their families.

**HOSPITALITY, FOOD, RELATIONSHIPS:** Give people time to get settled into your space. Invite them to snack and drinks. Take some extra time to get to know each other. A simple conversational ice-breaker may be appropriate for the first week or two.

**WHAT IS FREEDOM?** **AN OVERVIEW OF FREEDOM:**

**PETRA’S HOPE:** We hope each person continues to grow in emotional, spiritual, and relational maturity in Jesus.

**WEEKLY FLOW:** The participants will go through one chapter of the material per week. Then, when the group gathers together, everyone will discuss what they’ve learned through the workbook in the previous week.

**PERSONAL GROWTH:** FREEDOM is really a workbook designed to help each person learn these truths for themselves. *“You get out of it what you put into it.”* Personal initiative and a desire to grow will play a vital role in how much they gain from this experience.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS:** It will be most helpful if each person spends a little time each day—ten to fifteen minutes, for example—instead of trying to read through an entire chapter and answer all the questions in a two-hour block of time. The goal is to think deeply about the truths you’re learning and how to apply them in new habits of walking with Jesus.

**WEEKLY GROUP GATHERINGS:** If necessary, you maytake time to quickly explain what your group will be doing when you gather together weekly**.**

**GROUP GUIDELINES:** Because group discussion plays such a vital role in the FREEDOM journey, it is important to cultivate a safe, participatory atmosphere. Review the *Group Guidelines* found on page 208 of the FREEDOMworkbook.

**FREEDOM CONFERENCE:** On SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH there will be a FREEDOM conference at the end of your twelve-week journey. We are inviting everyone to participate. All of the FREEDOM groups, that are meeting this semester, will be gathered at that event for a time of worship, prayer, and ministry that helps apply what’s been learned over the twelve-week period.

**WEEK 1 VIDEO:** Show FREEDOM VIDEO WEEK 1. Go to <https://petra.church/freedom/> under *Participants Resources.*

**DISCUSSION:** Life application and discussion questions are provided at the end of each workbook chapter. Additional content is also emailed weekly.

**PRAYER:** Break into smaller groups of 4-5 people. Spend a few minutes sharing and praying for each other.

**BEFORE NEXT WEEK:** Go through chapter 2 of the FREEDOM workbook before gathering together for week 2.