

**Introduction:**

If asked, you would probably say that you are free. You make your own decisions, spend time with who you want to, and go wherever you'd like; that's freedom, right? While you may not feel confined or restrained in most areas of life, there is probably at least one area in which the sin or shortcoming that you think you have managed is actually managing you. The reality is that we are all slaves to something. The good news is that Jesus offers us an antidote.

**Scripture:**

John 8:31-36: "Jesus said to the people who believed in him, 'You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' 'But we are descendants of Abraham,' they said. 'We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free?'" Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.'"

**Discussion Questions:**

1. When do you feel the most free? Why do you think that is?
2. In John 8, Jesus says that "the truth will set you free." What do you think that it looks & feels like for someone to be truly free?
3. Jesus says that "Everyone who sins is a slave of sin."
  - Is this just hyperbole or have you actually found this to be true in real life?
  - What have you witnessed about sin that leads you to believe that?
4. We are all slaves to something.
  - Is there something in your life that you are enslaved to that you don't even think about?
  - How do you think your life would look different if you were truly free?
5. We are free when we choose to follow Jesus all the time, but that is much easier said than done. When do you find it particularly difficult to follow Jesus?
6. What is one obstacle standing between you and true freedom?

**Take the Next Step:**

Consider how you might be a slave to your own sin & what role God actually plays in your life. An honest & active relationship with Jesus is the antidote to slavery to sin; God has to fill the role of owner in our lives. What is one concrete step towards honesty with Jesus & away from slavery that you can take this week? When we truly get free, we want other people to join us. Who in your life needs freedom & how can you help point them in that direction? How can you play a part in the mission of Cokesbury so that even more people find freedom in Jesus?