



Study Guide - Week 2

Sermon Recap 🎬

Josh shares a powerful message about the concept of identity and freedom, using the story of Kamiyah Mobley, who was abducted and lived under a false identity for 16 years. He highlights how we can unknowingly choose our "captor"—the chains of past struggles and sins—over our true identity as children of God. The message encourages listeners to reflect on areas of their lives where they may be held captive and challenges them to let go of what limits them, embracing the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, Josh calls for a spiritual "funeral" to bury past identities and desires, inviting everyone to trust God and experience true freedom and abundant life.

Ice Breaker 🧊

If you were a character in a sitcom, what would be your catchphrase?

Discussion Questions

▼ Josh shared the story of Kamiyah Mobley's abduction and how she preferred her false identity despite the truth revealed through DNA testing, which symbolizes our struggles with identity.

- Why do you think Kamiyah chose her fake identity over her real identity, and what does this say about how we sometimes view our own identities?
- In what ways might you be clinging to a false identity instead of embracing who God created you to be?

▼ Josh spoke about how people can get used to their struggles and live life as if they are in chains, just like Kamiyah who was living with her captor.

- What do you think it means to live with chains that were never meant to hold you?
- Can you identify any areas in your life where you might be settling for less than what God has planned for you?

▼ Josh mentioned that the Holy Spirit defends us and intercedes for us in times of need.

- How does the concept of the Holy Spirit being an advocate for us change the way we approach our personal struggles?
- Think about a recent struggle you've faced. How would it change your perspective to know that the Holy Spirit is advocating for you?

▼ Josh asked if we've learned to trust what holds us back more than trusting God, challenging us to examine our faith.

- In what situations do you find it difficult to trust God, and why do you think that is?
- How can you intentionally shift your focus from your fears to trusting God's promises in those situations?

Read Scripture

Romans 6:1-11 NLT

¹ Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any

power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

▼ Josh emphasized the importance of letting go of old habits or identities that no longer serve us, symbolized by a 'funeral'.

- How does Romans 6 help you understand the importance of your 'funeral' and the new life that lies ahead?
- What is one thing you can do this week to symbolically 'bury' something from your past that is holding you back? What is one part of your life that needs to die today?

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for the courage to identify areas where we have allowed our captors to rule our lives.
- Ask God to help us rely more on Him this week.
- Seek guidance to embrace the new life that Christ offers us.

Rewatch the sermon

Visit victorycc.life/watch for on-demand access to all of our sermons.



5 Day Reading Plan - Week 2

Day 1

Romans 6

This passage reminds us that through Christ, we have been set free from sin and are called to live a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul declares that we have died to sin and are no longer enslaved to it because we have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:6-7). This means sin no longer has dominion over us—we are now alive to God. The Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in righteousness, no longer offering ourselves to sin but as instruments of God's grace (Romans 6:11-13). When we try to overcome sin in our own strength, we fail, but through the Spirit, we are given victory and transformation. Are you living as someone who is truly free, or are you still clinging to old patterns of sin? God calls us to surrender daily, trusting the Spirit to lead us into holiness. We are no longer slaves to sin but servants of righteousness, filled with the Spirit's power. Let's embrace the freedom Christ has given us and walk in obedience, relying on the Spirit to shape us into His image.

- In what areas of your life are you still living as though sin has power over you, instead of embracing the freedom Christ has given you?
- How can you rely more on the Holy Spirit to help you walk in righteousness rather than trying to overcome sin in your own strength?

- What daily habits or choices can help you live in the fullness of the new life God has given you?
- Ask God to help you fully surrender to the Holy Spirit, trusting Him to break the power of sin in your life and lead you into true freedom and righteousness.

Day 2

John 14

John records Jesus comforting His disciples by promising the Holy Spirit, who will be their Helper and guide. He assures them that even though He is leaving, they will not be left alone—the Spirit will dwell in them forever (John 14:16-17). The Holy Spirit teaches us, reminds us of Jesus' words, and gives us peace that the world cannot offer (John 14:26-27). Through Him, we experience God's presence in our daily lives, guiding us in truth and strengthening our faith. Jesus calls us to love Him by obeying His commands, and the Spirit empowers us to do so (John 14:15). When we face uncertainty or fear, we can trust that the Spirit is always with us, leading and comforting us. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your thoughts, actions, and decisions? Too often, we try to rely on our own wisdom rather than seeking His guidance. But when we walk in step with the Spirit, we experience the fullness of God's love and peace. Let's trust in the Holy Spirit, our ever-present Helper, and lean on Him each day.

- In what areas of your life do you need to rely more on the Holy Spirit's guidance instead of your own understanding?
- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is always with you bring comfort and confidence in your daily walk with Christ?
- What steps can you take to be more aware of and responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading in your life?
- Ask God to help you recognize and trust the Holy Spirit's presence in your life, seeking His guidance, peace, and wisdom in all that you do.

Day 3

John 10

John records Jesus describing Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and leads them with love and care. He says His sheep recognize His voice and follow Him, while they will not follow a stranger (John 10:3-5). The Holy Spirit helps us discern the voice of Jesus, guiding us in truth and keeping us from deception. Just as a shepherd protects and provides for his flock, the Spirit leads us into abundant life in Christ (John 10:10). Through Him, we experience the security of knowing we belong to God and can trust His direction. Are you tuning your heart to hear the voice of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, or are other voices drowning Him out? The world is full of distractions, but the Spirit speaks with clarity to those who listen. As we grow in faith, we learn to recognize and follow His leading more closely. Let's seek to listen to the Spirit daily, trusting Him to guide us in the path of life. When we follow His voice, we walk in the peace and safety of our Good Shepherd.

- How can you become more attentive to the Holy Spirit's voice in the midst of life's distractions?
- Are there any "stranger's voices" in your life that are leading you away from the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- What practical steps can you take to follow the Spirit's leading with greater trust and obedience?
- Ask God to help you recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit, to silence distractions that pull you away, and to follow His guidance with faith and confidence.

Day 4

Philippians 4

This passage reminds us that true peace comes from God, and the Holy Spirit helps us experience that peace in every circumstance. Paul encourages believers to rejoice always and not be anxious but instead bring everything to God in prayer (Philippians 4:6). The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to replace worry with trust, filling us with God's peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). He also strengthens us to be content in all situations, whether in abundance or need (Philippians 4:11-12). Through the Spirit, we can do all things in Christ's strength, rather than relying on our own abilities (Philippians 4:13). When we focus our minds on what is true, honorable, and praiseworthy, the Spirit renews our thoughts and directs our hearts toward God (Philippians 4:8-9). Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to bring peace into your life, or are you holding onto anxiety and fear? The Spirit is our Comforter, always present to remind us of God's faithfulness. When we surrender our worries and trust in Him, we experience the unshakable peace of Christ. Let's rely on the Holy Spirit to guard our hearts and minds with His perfect peace.

- In what areas of your life are you holding onto anxiety instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's peace?
- How can you actively shift your thoughts toward what is true, honorable, and praiseworthy, as Philippians 4:8 encourages?
- What practical steps can you take to rely on the Holy Spirit's strength rather than your own in times of difficulty?
- Ask God to help you surrender your worries to Him, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with peace, strengthen you in every circumstance, and guide your thoughts toward His truth.

Day 5

2 Corinthians 5

This passage reminds us that through Christ, we are made new, and the Holy Spirit is our guarantee of this transformation. Paul speaks of our earthly bodies as temporary tents, but God has prepared an eternal home for us, and He has given us the Spirit as a deposit of this promise (2 Corinthians 5:5). The Spirit reassures us that we belong to God and gives us confidence to live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Because of the Spirit's work in us, we are no longer defined by our past but are made new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Holy Spirit empowers us to live for God

rather than for ourselves, shaping us to reflect His righteousness. He also equips us as ambassadors of Christ, calling us to share the message of reconciliation with the world (2 Corinthians 5:20). Are you embracing the Spirit's renewing work in your life, or are you holding onto your old identity? The Spirit is always transforming us to be more like Christ. Let's surrender to His leading and live with the confidence that we are new creations, called to represent Jesus to the world.

- How is the Holy Spirit transforming your life, and in what areas do you still need to surrender to His work?
- What does it mean to you personally to be an ambassador for Christ, and how can the Holy Spirit equip you for this mission?
- Are you living with the confidence that you are a new creation in Christ, or are you still allowing past identities to define you?
- Ask God to help you fully embrace your new identity in Christ through the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to transform your life, guide you in sharing the message of reconciliation, and empower you to live with confidence in your eternal hope.



Want To Go Deeper?

Historical Context

Romans 6:1-11 is a passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, which is one of the most theologically rich books in the New Testament. Understanding the historical background of this passage can provide deeper insight into its meaning and significance.

1. **Authorship and Audience:** The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Romans around A.D. 57, during his third missionary journey, likely from Corinth. The letter was addressed to the Christian community in Rome, which was composed of both Jewish and Gentile believers. This diverse audience faced challenges in unifying their different cultural and religious backgrounds under the new covenant in Christ.
2. **Purpose of the Letter:** Paul wrote Romans to present a comprehensive explanation of the gospel. He aimed to clarify the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith, address tensions between Jewish and Gentile Christians, and prepare the Roman church for his planned visit. Romans 6 specifically addresses the implications of grace and the believer's relationship to sin.
3. **Context of Romans 6:** In the preceding chapters, Paul discusses the universality of sin and the justification that comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 1-5). Romans 6 begins a new section where Paul explains the implications of this justification for Christian living. He

addresses a potential misunderstanding that grace might encourage continued sinning, emphasizing instead that believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection.

4. **Baptism Imagery:** Romans 6:3-4 uses the imagery of baptism to illustrate the believer's union with Christ. In the early church, baptism was a significant rite symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. This imagery underscores the transformative nature of salvation, where the old self is put to death, and a new life in Christ begins.
5. **Jewish and Greco-Roman Context:** The concept of dying to sin and living a new life would resonate with both Jewish and Greco-Roman audiences. For Jews, the idea of dying to sin aligns with the Old Testament themes of repentance and renewal. For Gentiles, particularly those familiar with mystery religions, the notion of dying and rising with a deity would be a powerful metaphor for transformation and new allegiance.
6. **Theological Themes:** Romans 6:1-11 introduces key theological themes such as sanctification, the believer's new identity in Christ, and the ethical implications of being "dead to sin but alive to God." Paul emphasizes that grace is not a license to sin but a call to live a transformed life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Understanding these historical and cultural contexts helps illuminate Paul's message in Romans 6:1-11, highlighting the radical nature of the gospel and its call to a new way of life in Christ.

Greek Word Study

παράκλητος

Original Word: **παράκλητος**

Pronunciation: pah-RAH-klee-toss

Phonetic Spelling: (par-ak'-lay-tos)

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: paraklétos

Definition: Advocate, Helper, Comforter, Counselor

Meaning: (a) an advocate, intercessor, (b) a consoler, comforter, helper, (c) Paraclete.

Word Origin: Derived from the Greek verb παρακαλέω (parakaleó), meaning "to call to one's side," "to summon," or "to comfort."

Corresponding Hebrew Word: **מְנַחֵם (menachem)**, meaning "comforter" or "consoler," though there is no direct one-to-one correspondence in the Old Testament.

Usage: The term "paraklétos" is used in the New Testament to describe someone who is called to aid, support, or intercede on behalf of another. In a legal context, it refers to an advocate or legal assistant. In a broader sense, it signifies a helper or comforter who provides encouragement and support. In the New Testament, "paraklétos" is primarily used to describe the Holy Spirit, who acts as a divine helper and guide for believers.

Cultural and Historical Background: In ancient Greek culture, a "paraklétos" was someone who provided legal assistance or advocacy, akin to a modern-day lawyer or legal counselor. This role extended beyond legal matters to include any form of support or encouragement. In the context of the New Testament, the term takes on a spiritual dimension, emphasizing the Holy Spirit's role in guiding, comforting, and advocating for believers in their spiritual journey.

Deeper Application

- 1. Recognize the Captivity of Sin:** Just as Kamiyah was unaware of her captivity, many people live unaware of the spiritual chains that bind them. The sermon challenges listeners to examine their lives for areas where they might be choosing their "captor" (sin, addiction, fear) over their "Creator" (God). This involves a conscious acknowledgment of the ways in which sin has held them captive and a willingness to confront these areas.
- 2. Understand the Role of the Holy Spirit:** The sermon emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit as an Advocate, Comforter, and Guide. Embracing your true identity in Christ means relying on the Holy Spirit to lead and transform you. This involves daily surrender and openness to the Spirit's work in your life, allowing Him to produce the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) as evidence of your new identity.
- 3. Participate in the Death and Resurrection of Christ:** Romans 6:1-11 speaks to the believer's union with Christ in His death and resurrection. This is not just a theological concept but a practical reality. It calls for a "funeral" for the old self—putting to death old habits, sins, and identities that do not align with who you are in Christ. This is a daily process of dying to self and living for Christ, allowing His resurrection power to bring new life and transformation.
- 4. Live Out Your New Identity:** The sermon challenges believers to live out their new identity in practical ways. This means making choices that reflect your status as a child of God, such as pursuing holiness, engaging in community with other believers, and serving others. It involves trusting God with every aspect of your life, including your future, relationships, and struggles.
- 5. Trust in God's Transformative Power:** Finally, the sermon calls for trust in God's ability to transform your life. This trust is rooted in the assurance that God is for you, as demonstrated by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Believing in this truth empowers you to let go of fear and anxiety, knowing that God is leading you toward abundant life.