

## **HOW TO WIN WITHIN**

### **WEEK 1: TRUST WHAT IS TRUE**

#### **DAY 1: READ JOHN 8:24-47**

When Jesus speaks of the freedom that comes from believing and abiding in the truth (that comes only from Him), the Jews interpret Jesus literally, thinking He is referring to a physical slavery like their ancestors, the Israelites, experienced until God delivered them. Jesus is talking about a very different reality – slavery to sin – which leads to death. In what ways do we, too, continue in the deadly bondage of sin under the assumption that we have total freedom? What are the deeper spiritual consequences for this unchecked slavery? In verses 42-45, where does Jesus say this lie comes from?

#### **DAY 2: READ JOHN 10:1-20 & JEREMIAH 23:1-9**

Here, we see a closer look at the deeper reality of slavery to sin and Jesus' work to free us from Day 1. What is the thief/wolf's only intention for us, the sheep? As a sinner saved by Jesus' blood, how have you seen the effects of death, destruction and separation that comes from sin in your life? Since Satan actively seeks to enslave us with sin, as we wrestle with our flesh, let this passage remind you of the wolf-life, malicious intent from which sin stems and the wildly different, holy, righteous intent of our savior, Jesus, for us.

#### **DAY 3: READ JOHN 10:1-20 & 1 TIMOTHY 6:1-16**

In the same passage from Day 2, it's important to remember who we are – sheep. Sheep are neither predatory nor intimidating. As followers of Jesus, we must know the sound of our Shepherd's voice. What does this passage say about hearing a stranger's voice? How, then, are we to respond to the sinful, destructive intent of the wolf's howl or any voice that is not our Shepherd's?

Let's be aware and respond as such when we hear the strange voice of sin today, tomorrow and every day after.





#### **DAY 4: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13**

Let's heed the examples God has given us to follow His path of righteousness and spiritual safety. As we reflect on the ways we've seen or experienced slavery to sin in and around us, let's heed these examples and cling even tighter to His Word, His Spirit and His Son, our liberator.

#### **DAY 5: READ ROMANS 6-7**

In the context of these chapters, how are we set free from sin in Christ Jesus? If we are no longer to be slaves to sin and unrighteousness, how are we called to use our bodies/lives? How is slavery to sin different than slavery to righteousness that comes from an obedient heart? Why is our battle against slavery to sin an ongoing endeavor? Let the living presence of Jesus Christ be our answer to Paul's question in Romans 7:24. Reflect on this throughout the day and let your answer be the same.

#### **DAY 6: READ ROMANS 8**

Where/who does freedom from sin (and the resulting condemnation) come from? Instead of slavery, what does this passage say we've inherited? Look at verse 26; who helps us in our weakness? Even if we don't always know how or what to pray to God for, we still need to actively pray and communicate with God. Even when we don't know God's will in prayer, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in perfect unison with our Heavenly Father's will. Take time to thank the Holy Spirit for interceding for you. Take more time to pray and communicate to God.

#### **DAY 7: READ EPHESIANS 6:10-20**

We might be sheep who are defenseless on our own, but our God does not leave us defenseless. As inheritors of salvation from the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, He has given us His living presence, the Holy Spirit. Though we are still sheep and all dominion, authority and power are entirely His, He has given us the ability to stand firm in this life against the spiritual forces of wickedness which seek to steal, kill and destroy. Brothers and sisters, let's put on this armor right now and never take it off.