



**Week of July 4, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one area of your life that you fear losing control? Is it financial, career, children, a relationship or your health? How long have you struggled with this?
2. As you think about that thing you fear losing control of, what would you do if your worst fear actually happened? What would God want you to think and do?
3. Read John 12:17-19. What did the Pharisees stand to lose by allowing Jesus to continue to teach and heal? How did that affect their decisions?
4. Matt said, "Freedom is found on the other side of surrender". What promise from God's Word can you claim and apply?
5. If you had absolute confidence that God is with you, how would that change your willingness to surrender? As a group, talk about how you can have that kind of faith.
6. What area are you struggling to keep control of? Consider sharing that with your group? Is it possible that one step of surrendering to God is to share with someone in your group?

7. For your prayer time, allow some time for silent, individual prayer. Encourage the posture of surrender with hands open with palms upward.

### **Moving Forward**

Freedom is found on the other side of surrender. Surrendering to God will cost you something, but failing to surrender will cost you even more. The one who died for you is inviting you to let go and surrender, not because He wants something from you but because surrender is what's best for you.

### **John 12:17-19**

So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him. <sup>18</sup>For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

### **John 11:47-53**

Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. <sup>48</sup>"If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." <sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, <sup>50</sup>nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." <sup>51</sup>Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.