

**Key Scriptures: 1 John 1:8; Romans 6:1-7; Matthew 16:24-25; Romans 6:8-13; Romans 6:16-23**

**1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.**

- What is the first bit of “technology” you used to get directions? (Map? Compass? GPS? Mapquest? Smartphone? Etc.) What has changed since?
- Where did the idea of a handheld computer appear first? (Science Fiction... like Star Trek!) What piece of technology could you not live without now? What piece of technology can you imagine in the future?

**2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.**

- Read 1 John 1:8. Do we still have sin as Christians? But is that sin a growing problem, or can we let go of it... even little by little, with Christ’s help? How do you measure growth as a Christian? Could one way be how sin has less of a hold on you than it did before?
- Read Romans 6:1. Does our sin, prove God’s grace? Should we sin even more so that God’s grace may increase? What do we call someone who says to behave one way and then acts the opposite? Does being a hypocrite help others see God’s grace in us?
- Read Romans 6:2-7. How are we slaves to sin before Christ? How does Jesus set us free from sin? Why does it matter?
- Read Matthew 16:24-25. How does someone find their life by losing their life? Does this make sense in the real world? How?
- Read Romans 6:8-13. If death no longer has mastery over Jesus, after He died and rose again, then can we die to sin so that it no longer has any mastery over us? Why or why not? How can we die to sin?

**3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.**

- Just like the bulky “technology” that we used to have to carry to stay organized, or find directions, what burdens can you stop carrying and allow Christ to free you from? What does He replace those burdens with?
- According to Romans 6:1-2, is God working in our lives to give us freedom *to* sin, or to set us free *from* sin? Why or why not?
- Be honest... The reason we give into sin is because we are thinking about what sin will do for us, but not what sin will cost us. Why is that? What is the cost of sin in light of eternity? What is the price of sin now? Explain.
- How does baptism symbolize death and new life? How does it relate to Jesus and His death on the cross?
- Romans 6:16-23 demonstrates that everyone is a slave to something. Do you want a Master who is cruel, or do you want a Master who is kind?

**4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.**

- Pray that God helps you die to sin (and name the particular sin you are struggling with).
- Pray that you stop thinking about what sin can do FOR YOU . . . and start thinking about what sin will COST YOU.

**5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.**

- Commit to daily prayer, asking God to forgive you and to take any mastery sin has on you away.