

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

FREE PEOPLE

Have you ever had to follow a rule that made absolutely no sense to you? Maybe it was a rule about what you could or couldn't wear, where you could or couldn't go, or who you could or couldn't spend time with. When some people think about God, that is what they think about – a list of rules miles long that don't seem important or relevant to their lives. But said there are only two rules that matter most: love God and love others as you love yourself. In this 4-week series in the book of James, we'll discover that **the right rules can set you free** – and that **free people don't dance with danger, make decisions that benefit others, and give up their freedoms for others.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Free people give up their freedoms for others.

THE BIBLE

Matthew 22:37-40; James 4:1-3; John 15:12-13; 1 Peter 2:24; Philippians 2:6-7

- **What's the best fast food restaurant? Let's fight about it!**
- **What's the silliest reason you've ever gotten mad at a friend?**
- **Who do you fight with most often: friends, family, or authority figures? Why do you think that is?**
- **If you had to help your friends resolve their conflicts with each other (like James did for his community), what advice would you give them?**
- **What's one way "me-centered" thinking could cause conflict with others?**
- **What are some ways we can love others by giving up some of our freedoms?**
- **Think about a fight you've had with a friend or family member. During the fight, in what ways did you both break the "law of love"? When you resolved it, what sacrifices did you both make for each other?**
- **Read Philippians 2:6-7. When we're in conflict with someone, what can we learn from Jesus?**
- **Do you think there is ever a time when you shouldn't give up some of your freedoms for others? When and why?**
- **This week, what's one way you can make a sacrifice in order to make things right with someone you've been fighting with?**