



# Free to Serve

BY SHARI MILLER

Share with a partner or your group the activities and characteristics associated with being free.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear God, we praise You! We thank You for sending Jesus, our Suffering Servant, who saves us from sin, death, and the devil, and who grants us eternal life in Him. Thank You for giving us Your Spirit and faith in our Savior Jesus. Make us Your willing servants, Lord, serving with gladness as the Spirit empowers us to serve. Keep us strong in faith through Word and Sacraments. Bless our study of Your Word. In our Servant Jesus' name. Amen.

### Free ...

Read **Psalm 51:5**, **Galatians 4:3**, **Ephesians 2:1-3**, and **Colossians 1:21**. What is the spiritual condition of all?

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**Psalm 51:5** says, *in sin did my mother conceive me*. Read **Romans 3:22b-23** and **Romans 6:23a** for further explanation. Who sins and what is the result? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does sin act out in our lives? Read **Romans 1:18-32**, **Galatians 5:19-21a**, and **Colossians 3:5-9**, and make a list. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Faith Talk: Romans 6:23a** says, *For the wages of sin is death*. What words describe what the future looks like for mankind? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **John 3:16-17**, **Galatians 4:4-7**, and **Ephesians 2:4-9**. What is the Good News of salvation for sinners? Be specific. \_\_\_\_\_

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See **Romans 8:2**. What has Christ Jesus done for sinners? \_\_\_\_\_

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How are we set free according to **Colossians 1:21-23**? What word-picture does Paul give to the Colossians? \_\_\_\_\_

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### ... to Serve!

The psalmist in **Psalm 118:5** says, *Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free*. Read Jesus' words in **John 8:31-36**. What does He teach about being "set free"? \_\_\_\_\_

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From what has Jesus set us free? See **Romans 3:22b-24**, **2 Timothy 1:10**, and **Hebrews 2:14**. \_\_\_\_\_  
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According to **Romans 6:1-7**, how does the Spirit create new life in us for the sake of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Philippians 2:1-11** gives us the perfect example of servanthood. How can Jesus' example of servanthood spur us on as we live our lives in the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Who was freed in **Matthew 8:14-17** and from what? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What was her immediate response? Why might she respond this way? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Read **Psalms 100**. Identify specific actions that accompany acts of service to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Faith Talk:** Is it easier to serve or to be served? What actions might accompany service? What actions might accompany being served? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Faith Talk:** Humbly share with a partner or the small group a time when, by the power of His Spirit, the Lord helped you to serve in a meaningful way as a response to God's love for you in Jesus Christ.

- Faith Walk:**
1. Read and meditate on Psalm 100. Memorize God's Word to you in this psalm.
  2. Identify a person in your life whom you can serve, pray for guidance, and serve them with God-given gladness.

**Closing:** Sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness."  
([lwml.org/the-league-pledge-and-songs](http://lwml.org/the-league-pledge-and-songs))



Shari Miller is a child of God, wife, mother, freelance author, and musician. Shari has written numerous articles, Bible studies, and devotions, and she is serving as the chairman of the LWML Leader Development Committee.

## THE LEAGUE PLEDGE

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love  
and His blood-bought gift of redemption  
we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that  
we are and have; and in obedience to His call  
for workers in the harvest fields,  
we pledge Him our willing service  
wherever and whenever He has need of us.

We consecrate to our Savior  
our hands to work for Him,  
our feet to go on His errands,  
our voice to sing His praises,  
our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,  
our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom,  
our will to do His will,  
and every power of our life to the great task  
of bringing the lost and the erring into  
eternal fellowship with Him.  
Amen.

## **"Serve the Lord with Gladness"**

"Serve the Lord with gladness!"

It is He alone

Who redeemed us sinners,

Guides us as His own

To enjoy the blessings

Of His love and grace,

Will at last in glory

Meet us face to face.

Onward, then, for Jesus!

Let this be our aim:

"Serve the Lord with gladness!"

Glorify His name.