

**LEADERTREKS** **SERMON SERIES**

## MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ are given new life and freed from the power of sin.

## SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 6:1–14

## SERMON OVERVIEW

Today we are starting the first lesson in our Labeled series. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we have been given new life and freedom from the power of sin. Jesus' death on the cross created a way for those who put their faith in him to no longer suffer the eternal consequences of sin.

## OPENING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### GAME AND ICE BREAKER QUESTION

- We recommend **Celebs Back in the Day** or another screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**.
- What's something you love when it's new but not when it's old?

## MESSAGE

*Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.*

## READ ROMANS 6:1–4

### POINT 1: Christ gives us new life

Jesus' death and sacrifice on the cross did not award us with a better life or a second chance at the life we have. Christ's death and resurrection bring about a new life for those who belong to him.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Tell a **personal story** about getting something "refurbished" or "like-new" versus a time you got something brand new. (Example: a used car versus a new car, a refurbished game system that sometimes glitched versus a new console that worked perfectly.)

Christ didn't come to improve our old lives or make them "like-new." He transforms us into a brand new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) by giving us a brand new life.

## READ ROMANS 6:5-11

### POINT 2: Christ broke the power of sin

There was a time in our lives when we were slaves to sin (Rom. 6:17). We could not overcome the power it had over us and were sentenced to death because of it (Rom. 6:23). But when Jesus died and rose again, he conquered both sin and death. Sin no longer holds any power over us because we no longer belong to it—we are part of God's family now.

This passage uses the phrase, "our old self was crucified" (vs. 6). This means our old self—who we used to be, the way we used to live, talk, think, act, our priorities and motivations—are gone. Paul said it this way in another letter of his, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Who we once were (our old self) is gone because we have become someone new, someone alive in Christ (vs. 11).

## READ ROMANS 6:12-14

### POINT 3: We dedicate our new life to God, not ourselves

While we will still be tempted by sin, we are no longer controlled by it. In this new life we have been given, we surrender to God, not sin.

*ILLUSTRATION:* Tell a **personal story** about refusing to follow/obey someone or something you once did. (Example: former coach or teacher you were forced to obey, but once you graduated you were free from them and their authority over you.)

Because Christ has set us free from sin (John 8:36), we are free to follow him. By surrendering our new life to God, we are free to pursue his desires and his will, not ours.

## CLOSING REFLECTION

*Use this prompt to wrap up your message and leave your students with a challenge to apply.*

- What do you think a life surrendered to God looks like?
- How is your life different now from how it was before you met Jesus?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

*Pick a few questions from below to discuss. Close with prayer.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever forgiven a friend for something and then had that friend continue to do the same thing again? What did you do about it?
- Describe a time in your life when you experienced incredible victory. Who or what were you victorious over and what did it feel like?
- What would your life look like if you truly believed you had the power to live without sin?
- What are the circumstances and people that typically entice you to return to sin?
- When considering the sin(s) you struggle with, what does it practically look like to be dead to sin and alive to God?
- How can you present yourself to God as an “instrument for righteousness” (v. 13)?

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- These verses encourage Christ-followers to evaluate where there is sin in their lives and make decisions that help eliminate that sin and experience victory in Christ. This will look different for each Christ-follower. It could be changing your friend group, how you spend your time, or what you care about most. Ask God to show you any areas that you need to surrender to him. What changes do you need to make in those areas?

### PRAYER

Close by praying or invite someone to pray for your group.  
*Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.*

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