

## APPLICATION

- The Bible tell us that the right answer to the fears and pain that would make us want to be defensive and protect ourselves is to not fear, but to trust God and to open the door (or doors) of our life to Jesus, to be transparent with Him and follow His ways. It promises us when we do this we will overcome, gain victory, find healing and enter into rest instead of struggle.
- Any time you feel afraid, start to become defensive, want to avoid people or situations, ask God to help you open the door and go through it. Don't try to avoid it or find your own solution to the problem like Sarah Winchester did. Ask God to help, find out how God would have you handle the situation according to the Bible, as Jesus to give you the strength to do it, be transparent with Him about the struggle and press on.
- Pray for those around you who have closed some doors in their lives. Be gracious and understanding towards them. It can happen to all of us. Maybe even consider sharing this study with them. You might be the key to them opening again some long closed doors.

## Prayer

O Lord, forgive us for at times giving up, closing the door on people or opportunities in our lives out of fear, past pain or frustration. Help us to keep the doors of our hearts and minds open to you. Help us to walk in freedom and victory. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. We all want to find effective ways of living and be successful. Trying to overcome the challenges we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to effective living.  
Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



## Doors To Victory

## NOTES

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## WARM-UP

- What kind of a house did you grow up in? Was it big or little? New or old? What was the most interesting thing about your house or what was your favorite part of the home?
- Did you ever feel scared as a kid? Did you ever fear that the "boogie man" or some other scary thing was under your bed or in your closet?
- Can you tell of a time that you had your parents check and make sure that everything was safe in your house?

## WORD

<sup>20</sup> "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.<sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:20-22 NIV

When my wife and I lived in California we liked finding interesting and unique places to visit. One such place was the Winchester Mystery House. It was built by Sarah Winchester, the widow heiress of the Winchester Repeating Rifle Company. The untimely death of her infant daughter of a mysterious disease left Sarah deeply depressed. Years later when her husband died an untimely, premature death from tuberculosis she became convinced that she was cursed and tormented by all the spirits of those killed by "the gun that won the west"- the Winchester Repeating Rifle. To appease these spirits she moved west and starting building a house for them. She believed that if she continually built a house for the spirits, and never stopped, that they would leave her alone. So for 38 years construction on the house never ended. Construction even continued 24 hours as day. Just in case that did not stop the spirits she made plans to confuse them. Sarah slept in a different bedroom each night, built secret rooms that had no entrance or exit, had stairs that lead to nothing but the ceiling above, had doors that opened only to the walls behind them and many other such mysteries in this huge mansion.

In the end, the mansion had 160 rooms, 2,000 doors, 10,000 windows, 47 stairways, 47 fireplaces, 13 bathrooms and 6 complete kitchens. Truly Sarah went to great lengths to try and gain victory over her fears. Unfortunately for her, none of these methods worked.

## 1 - Doors in our lives too?

Sarah build many doors in her life trying to protect herself. Her doors were built out of wood and were very visible. Often we build doors and put up walls in our lives to protect ourselves too. What are some common doors or barriers people put up to protect themselves from fears, hurts, pain, loss, disappointment and more?

## 2 - Jesus wants to come in.

<sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Revelation 3:20 NIV

Doors are meant to be closed and opened! Doors allow access in and out. We tend to put up doors to protect ourselves. This is an understandable and natural thing to do, especially when we feel threatened. The problem becomes when we do not open up the doors again but leave them closed. The doors then move from protecting us to imprisoning us. If you think about it, the issue is not so much the door but the person wanting to enter through the door. Some doors should be opened to some people but not others. There is one person who history and the Bible both tell us is trust worthy to come into any door we may put up in our lives. His name is Jesus. What are some of the reasons you (or others) tend to keep the doors closed not allowing Jesus to enter and work in your life?

## 3 - Victory and Rest are with Him!

<sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.<sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:21-22 NIV

In today's Scripture, it is interesting that right after Jesus promises to come in if we will open the door to Him He also speaks of personal victory and us sitting with God. Jesus directly connects our welcoming Him in our life to gaining victory and finding rest! Sarah Winchester never found victory or rest. She tried to do things her own way, spent a lot of time and money yet never overcame. How have you experienced victory by asking Jesus to come into an area of your life and help? How did He help you overcome?