



FOOLPROOF

Set Them Free

#npfoolproof

Week 5

5 of 5

May 6, 2018

Bottom Line: There is only ONE Savior.

Icebreaker: Discuss one of these questions: If you were at a friend or relative's house and found a dead insect in your salad, what would you do? What is a skill you currently don't have but would really like to acquire?

Key Verse: *This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: "I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."* Isaiah 44:6

If you are entangled with a fool, you have probably assumed a role that is extremely uncomfortable but it's what you do most. You play the role of Savior. A Savior is someone who willingly gives himself to save others who are wretched, lost, with no understanding that they are lost. It is a futile role to play. The role of Savior has been filled by God through Jesus Christ, and there is no other. That job is way above your pay grade. If you are dominated and controlled by a fool you love, and you feel hopeless, yet responsible, there is one hope. Let go, and let God handle your fool. He is the only One who can.

You are not the change agent for your fool. When you release your fool, for the first time you are bringing true hope into the situation. You are embarking on a journey of faith. You say in your heart, "I am going to trust God and look to Him alone to be my source and resource. I will keep my eyes on Him." That decision leaves your beloved fool alone, and face to face with the only One who can help. It's the only way to see what God can do.

The recovery movement has a mantra that says, "I didn't cause it, I cannot cure it, I can't even control it. There is one Savior, and it is not me." When you come to that realization deep in your heart, the future begins to look up for everyone. It's the ultimate surrender and the right surrender, even though your long history of over responsibility for your fool may make you feel like it is wrong. When you quit seeking to change the fool's behavior, and you turn to God for wisdom in everything you do, you will find a new strength and peace that will come no other way. You have a heavenly Father who loves both you and your fool, and He has both of your best interests at heart.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message? Why does trying to be the savior for your fool feel right, and what makes it feel so wrong when you stop?

Discuss: "You can neither save your fool nor survive his destructive behavior." – Jan Silvius

When you know that chaos and anger will be the most likely first response of your fool to you letting go, what could give you the courage and stamina to do it anyway?

"If you are determined to remove your fool from the center of your attention by detaching and leaving him in God's hands, then and only then will you see what God can do." How do you know if the fool is actually changed and you can move back toward him or her? How do you know when to make a long-term change?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"A fool's pride is tall but his memory is short." How can that inform you as you deal long term with your fool?

Ruth Graham said in her book, *Prodicals and Those Who Love Them*, "We cannot convict of sin, create hunger or thirst after God, or convert. These are miracles, and miracles are not in our department." That helps us realize we can love, pray, and provide for legitimate needs, but we cannot enlighten or save. That is God's job. He is fully capable of doing everything that needs done in the life of your fool—and your life, too. How does that help you stand firm when your fool attacks you and says you have abandoned him/her?

Sometimes we are afraid to let go of our fool because we believe "I am all he has." The truth probably is, I think he is all I have. But I have a Father. How can this realization change things?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Share your greatest weakness and your greatest fear with the group.
- 2) Commit to prayer together for the next week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: There is only ONE Savior.

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| Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Why did you give yourself this rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week? | | | | | | | | | | |

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Daniel 11:32

Tuesday: Jeremiah 29:13-14

Wednesday: 1 Peter 5:5-7

Thursday: Proverbs 21:1

Friday: Psalm 25:1-9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)