



True Vine's Virtual VBS 2020 *Grades 9-12*

June 1, 2020

Week 1 At Sea: *Freed From Fear*, Romans 8:16, Romans 8:1,2

- **Deck Plan-** Romans 8:1-2, 12-17
- **Key Card-** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
- **Main Seating-** God, free us from fear. Replace our fears with confidence, peace, and security, help us to always be assured of Your presence. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
- **Bridge/Docking-** People often get scared because they imagine an awful outcome, even when there is very little, if any, real danger involved. Have you ever feared what you thought might happen, and realized that your expectations were all wrong?

In the book of Romans, Paul reminds Christians of the requirements of having a relationship with Jesus Christ. In exchange for the relationship and its benefits, Christians are required to be spiritually responsible. Being spiritually responsible means living according to the Spirit. As Christians moved away from the restrictions of Old Testament Law, they had to learn what it means to follow God's will. Following the will of God means living by the leading of God's Spirit and being free from fear. Ultimately, Paul believed that it is God's Spirit that connects believers to God and allows them to receive the benefits of being God's children.

Our connection with God does not mean that we will never suffer. But even as we share in the sufferings of Christ, we can be sure that we will share in the blessings that Christ's sacrifice has afforded us. Because of this, Christians must be responsible. While the Spirit provides freedom that was not given under the Law, the Spirit holds us accountable to God and to those around us.

Knowing that we would fall, God has given a measure of grace to every Christian so that we would not condemn ourselves or feel enslaved by our fearful thoughts of punishment. Rather, freedom that comes from the Spirit broadens our perspective and allows us to see that we are not only protected by our relationship with God, but we also have reinforcement from the community of believers that we received through accepting Jesus Christ. Paul's teachings focused on providing Christians with hope. God is always with us, helping us to overcome our problems, temptations, and fears.

1. What are some fears that have hindered you from having a personal relationship with God?
2. How can we support each other as a community of faith?

