

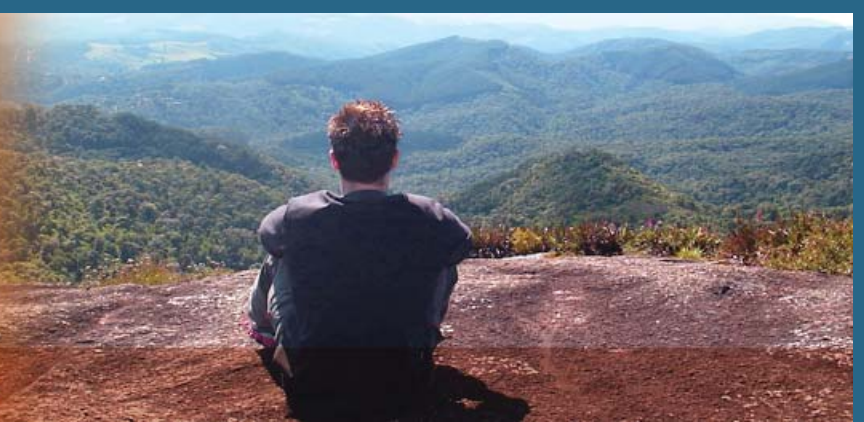
LOVE IN

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2010

Finding Freedom in Jesus Christ

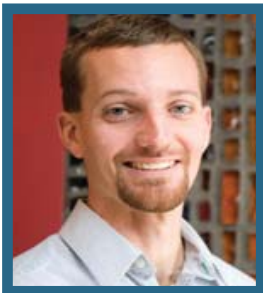
from sexual and relational sin.

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Family Freedom Intensive to be Held in June

by **Tommy Corman, Executive Director**



Dear Friends,

We are excited to let you know that Love In Action's next *Family Freedom Intensive* workshop is coming up on June 1st through 4th, Tuesday through Friday. *Family Freedom* is a unique program for families who have an adolescent struggling with sexual brokenness. It provides a safe, Christ-centered place for families to open up with each other about issues they need to confront, and learn how to deal with their family situation as a team. Experienced, caring facilitators guide the group through biblical teaching, individualized assignments, and the application of practical tools to everyday situations, helping the participants take their pain and burdens to the foot of the cross.

Family Freedom is a family retreat with a purpose: to reconnect each family member to God and to each other in a deeper way, and restore to them the hope of God's plan for their lives! *Family Freedom* is perfect for moms, dads, and struggling adolescents, and even other siblings to experience together; but for families whose kids are not yet ready to open up, we encourage parents to attend without their child. Moms and dads can still go home refreshed and with new strategies for facing tough family situations positively and redemptively.

For more information, please call our offices at 901-751-2468 (toll-free at 877.320.5217), or visit us online at www.loveinaction.org/familyfreedomintensive. Our typical group is two to four families, with a 12-person limit in order to ensure the program's effectiveness; so if you think *Family Freedom* might be right for your family, please get in touch with us soon. We hope you can join us the first week in June.

Just take a look at what some of our past *Family Freedom* participants have said about the experience. From a mom who attended with her husband and teenage son:

“ The whole atmosphere at Love In Action was such that you could just feel God's love and peace... it had been so long since I had felt that! Everyone who talked to us, every conversation gave us so much hope and peace. For four days, everything that was said made us do a lot of soul-searching and take a hard look at ourselves. The whole thing was just awesome! It was like God was putting His own words into the counselors' mouths... it wasn't a human thing, it was very godly.

My husband used to fight with our son constantly, and I would try to jump into the middle. At the workshop we realized that was so counterproductive! Through the program sessions we realized that all the bickering and fighting was so counter to what God wants to do in our lives. We learned not to let all these things steal our joy and our connection with God, which is what we were all doing as a family. My husband and I are not going to let our children steal our joy, all we can do is show them love, and they have to choose for themselves whether they are going to follow the Lord or go into some other lifestyle. I wish that everyone could come to the workshop to be refreshed for a few days, no matter what they are struggling with. It was so wonderful! ”

FAMILY FREEDOM

INTENSIVE

June 1-4, 2010

at Love In Action

For more information, please call
901-751-2468 or 877-320-5217 (TF)

or visit us online:

**[http://www.loveinaction.org/
familyfreedomintensive](http://www.loveinaction.org/familyfreedomintensive)**

(continued on reverse)

The Back Page: **Family Freedom Held in June, cont.**

From a dad whose son is college-age, and who attended alone:

“ Since the workshop, I can relate to my son a lot better right where he’s at. The workshop opened my eyes spiritually to the battle that is really going on in both our lives. And I started to understand the complexity of same-sex attraction and some of the elements that drive it. I think my son is at a better comfort level with me now; I handle myself differently around him based on what I have learned. He has been coming over to the house more, so I guess he gets different “vibes” from me now! He wants to be around me more.

I didn’t want to leave the workshop! God’s spirit was very present and at work very clearly when I was there. I grew spiritually because of the teaching on identity in Christ: agreeing with who God says I am. During Family Freedom I experienced the reality of God confirming that identity to me! ”

In addition to our in-house workshops like *Family Freedom* and our ongoing residential discipleship program, *The Source*, Love In Action has lately had some wonderful opportunities to reach out in the local area.

Recently I spoke in Memphis at the Urban Youth Initiative panel discussion on youth and homosexuality. I was encouraged when I saw the large turn-out of local youth leaders hungry for information about how to help young people who are dealing with same-sex issues. It was a good chance to reach an audience who held a wide range of beliefs about homosexuality, some from non-Christian worldviews. Some of the questions people asked were very hard-hitting, such as, “Why do Christians still uphold the portions of the Levitical law that govern sexual ethics, but not the dietary restrictions?” I responded that it is important for us first to understand why God gave the Law in the first place. The Israelites had just left Egypt and were now traveling as a group of six million people with no governmental structure as we know it today. God, in His wisdom and love, put the Law in place for their protection and continued growth as a people.

Also, we should refrain from building a theology around only one passage. It is crucial to look at the Levitical laws in the context of the whole of Scripture. We know from Acts Chapter 10 that the dietary laws were to be put aside if they became an obstacle that kept non-Jewish people from receiving the Gospel. But the sexual ethics of the Levitical Law are reaffirmed throughout the New Testament, for both Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ. It is clear from the wider context that the Bible reserves sexual relationships for marriage between one man and one woman.

At the invitation of Dr. Stacy Spencer, I also participated in a panel discussion on homosexuality at New Direction Church. The session, called “Same Sex or Sacred Sex?”, was broadcast live on the internet. This church has made the courageous decision to tackle this issue head-on, and really reach out redemptively to those who are struggling, so I was honored to be a part of that. In the confusing times we live in, the church is often as much in need of sound information on these issues as the world is, and this forum gave me yet another chance to answer people’s questions about homosexuality from a biblical perspective.

Just as Love In Action has been reaching out, we have also been making sure to keep looking inward, taking advantage of opportunities for staff development. Recently I attended an informative conference in Nashville on the topic of “denial management.” Almost everyone today is familiar with the concept of denial, but this conference moved beyond the basic definition. As I learned, denial can actually take several forms: rationalization (finding “good” reasons to do self-defeating things), avoidance, intellectualizing, minimizing, blaming, or even total denial, in which we simply lie to ourselves. All these things can keep us away from painful realities that we need to face. During the conference we were led in role-playing exercises to practice confronting denial in others in a grace-filled way. The event was also a helpful reminder never to stop taking a hard look at myself. As a counselor, as a Christian leader, if I’m ignoring problems in my own life, how can I help other people with theirs? As the saying goes, “We can’t give away something we don’t have.”

Help transform the life of an LIA client! Become a sponsor of a *Family Freedom* family or a *Source* residential client by donating online at
<http://www.loveinaction.org/financialsupport>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Time
Source Residential Move-In Dates	LIA Campus	Call to Schedule	1:00 pm
4-Day Intensive	LIA Campus	Call to Schedule	9:00 am
Family Freedom Intensive	LIA Campus	June 1-4, 2010	1:00 pm
<i>Within Reach</i> Support Group	LIA Campus	Tuesdays, call to enroll	7:00 pm
Exodus <i>Freedom</i> Conference	Irvine, CA	June 23-26, 2010	2:00 pm
Love Won Out Conference	Irvine, CA	June 26, 2010	8:00 am

To make a donation, please call 901.751.2468 or donate online at www.loveinaction.org.