



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Series:** Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 46

# Get Freedom

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get spiritual freedom.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-11. Jesus' trial and sentence.

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 2:16, "Live as free people but don't hide behind your freedom when you do evil. Instead, use your freedom to serve God."

**We will help kids know:**

- Jesus gave up his freedom to be captured, tried, and crucified for us.
- Jesus freed us from the eternal consequences of our sin.
- Though Jesus let himself be captured, he was free to do what God wanted.
- Freedom is not just doing what we want. True freedom is doing what God wants.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Secure as they find themselves freed through Jesus' sacrifice for them.
- Motivated to continue to grow in their ability to do what God wants.

**We will help kids do:**

- List ways they can be free to serve God and others.
- Pray about the areas that God has freed them so they can do that thing.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids discuss how true freedom, which is freedom in Christ, is quite different from being free to do whatever you want.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18" masking tape strips for each kid</li> <li>• half sheet of paper per child</li> <li>• pencils</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-8  9  9-10  10-12	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Series Introduction</b>  <b>Audience Participation Game:</b> "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice" Game Show –Kids will try to guess the phrase, "...Get <u>freedom</u> to do whatever <u>God</u> wants."  <b>Video:</b> <i>JESUS</i> from the JESUS Film Project – The large group presenter shows Jesus' trial in front of the Jewish Council.  <b>Bible Reading:</b> Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-11 with Observation Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>JESUS</i> video from the JESUS Film Project, show the section beginning with Jesus leaving the courtyard and entering the Jewish council</li> <li>• treasure chest</li> <li>• sign: "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Game Show"</li> <li>• small sign attached to the treasure chest that reads "Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and ..."</li> <li>• sign in the treasure chest that reads "...Get _____ to do whatever _____ wants."</li> <li>• an American flag also in the treasure chest</li> <li>• section of scripture (Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-11) on an overhead</li> <li>• Gordy, the puppet tied up in masking tape (see lesson)</li> <li>• whipped topping on a plate</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	Kids discuss how to be free to serve God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strips of masking tape from warm-up</li> <li>• ½ sheet of paper</li> <li>• pens or pencils</li> <li>• scissors (optional)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Key warm-up question:

**Can you tell about a recent time when you had to do something you did not want to do?**

**If you were free to do whatever you want to this week, what would you do?**

Give each child an 18" strip of masking tape. Continue with the following point:

**Most kids think freedom means doing whatever you want. But let's think about that for a minute. Can you think about something you might want to be free to do but it wouldn't be a very good thing to do? What would the consequences of doing this be? Sometimes being free to do whatever you want can be bad.**

For every example a child gives of making a selfish or wrong choice, have him wrap the tape around his hand once.

**When someone wants to be free so they can do what is wrong, that isn't freedom at all. As a matter of fact, it's a type of slavery. Like this tape is stuck to you, you can become a slave to your own selfishness. The Bible calls this being a slave to sin. This is a trick Satan uses. We think we want to be free to do whatever we want whenever we want, but then we become a slave to our wants even if they are wrong!**

Have kids now try and write their names on the paper with their hand wrapped up. After they have experienced some difficulty doing this, help them unwrap the tape from their hand, keeping it free from tangling, and then set it aside to be used in wrap-up activity.

**Today we will learn about true freedom, which is freedom in Christ. This is quite different from being free to do whatever you want. *\*Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get spiritual freedom.* Jesus' sacrifice gives us freedom. This freedom will truly make us free. We will be free to do what God wants and not to be slaves to our own selfishness.**

Encourage the children to bring their Bibles along to large group.

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Audience Participation Game:** “Meet Jesus the Sacrifice” Game Show – Kids will try to guess the phrase, “...Get freedom to do whatever God wants.”

**Video:** *JESUS* from the JESUS Film Project. – The large group presenter introduces Jesus showing Jesus’ trial in front of the Jewish Council.

**Bible Reading:** Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-11 with Observation Questions

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

*Typically, observation questions are discussed in the small group. However, during this series, observation questions will be given in the large group as the children follow along in their Bibles.*

### Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Do you think Jesus had the power to escape when they arrested him?** *(Matthew 26:53. Yes. Jesus could have had many angels there to help him if he asked.)*

**What would have happened if Jesus would have freed himself and escaped?** *(He would not have gone to the cross for us and we wouldn't have forgiveness.)*

**Why did Jesus not try to escape when he was arrested?** *(He knew it was his Father's will that he would die for the sins of the world.)*

**Jesus' hands were tied, and he looked like a prisoner. Do you think he felt like a prisoner in his heart, though? Did Jesus feel trapped?** *(Jesus was free on the inside because he was doing what God wanted him to do. Living God's truth makes us free.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Let's make sure we understand what true freedom is. We can learn from Jesus. True freedom is doing what God wants, not just doing what we want which is selfishness.

Let's discuss an example. Some people want to be free to do whatever they want. Let's say they want to use illegal drugs, like marijuana or cocaine, to make them feel better. At first it might feel like freedom for them to do whatever they want, but what can happen to them if they keep taking these drugs? *(They use them more and more and become a slave of needing drugs to feel good.)*

Now let's discuss Jesus' way. He did what God wanted when he let himself be captured and put to death. Did Jesus stay dead? No. He was raised from the dead, and he is alive today. Though it was hard to do what God wanted, it was the best thing. And it was true freedom.

Since Jesus is our sacrifice, we get freedom to do what God wants. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:16, *"Live as free people, but don't hide behind your freedom when you do evil. Instead, use your freedom to serve God."*

### Application Activity:

**What are some things we can do that are God's will for us and can give us true freedom? What are some things you can do to serve God instead of yourself?**

Have the kids each write a list on the half sheet of paper of the activities they compiled as a group. Examples to get started include: confessing a wrong thing and receiving God's forgiveness, obeying authority and receiving protection from consequences or even rewards, freedom to grow in Jesus through prayer and reading the Bible, freedom to praise God and give him thanks for all we have, freedom to serve others through acts of kindness, freedom to give to others or to the church, freedom to speak words of encouragement to others, etc. Have them only write one or two words to convey the concept (see those underlined).

Then have kids tear or cut apart each example and set the paper strips before them. Next, have kids tear off strips of the tape and wrap the tape around each finger with the STICKY SIDE OUT. Say:

**In large group we heard how repenting of our sins brings freedom. Repentance means to turn around. That is what we are doing with the tape. We are turning it around so it doesn't stick to us. That is**

**like repenting of our selfishness or being “stuck” on ourselves. Now we are not bound up, but we are free to serve God.**

Have kids pick up the strips of paper with their sticky fingers. Then have them hold up their handful of freedoms to serve God. Ask:

**How many of you have been successful in doing all these things?**

Kids may find they have failed or not done these things. This presents an opportunity to talk about forgiveness.

**Today we learned that *\*Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get spiritual freedom.***

**Because of Jesus’ sacrifice for us, we have his forgiveness. Our mistakes cannot hold us back from trying again. Jesus gives us power when we believe in him, to be free so we can try again to do what God wants.**

Closing Prayer:

Pray over the things children have mentioned as areas in which they might have failed and in areas in which they are free to do what God wants

## Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Series

*This six-week series helps children understand that Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice. This is a key concept. Jesus gave up something so we can get something. Each week we explore an aspect of how Jesus gave up his life for us so we can have a new life in him.*

**Treasure Chest:** *A treasure chest will be used from week to week. Each week there will be a different object that illustrates what we might receive as we meet Jesus the Sacrifice. With the object is a sign that contains blanks where the audience will guess the main phrase. For example, the first week we meet Jesus the Sacrifice and get “Jesus as Lord.” The object in the treasure chest is a crown and the sign will say, “Get \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**“Meet Jesus the Sacrifice” Game Show:** *This audience participation game show is a version of Charades. We recently played Meet the God/Man Game Show that involved kids up front. This game show involves shepherds up on stage trying to help the audience guess the blanks that fill in the special phrase for the day. Two shepherds try to be the first to have their respective half of the audience guess the mystery phrase for the week. OPTION: If there are too many kids in the audience that make the guesses hard to discern, pick teams of kids to come forward to guess each shepherd’s clues. The losing shepherd has to do something yucky like eat baby food or chocolate pudding without a spoon.*

**Video:** *Each week the large group will see a short clip from the video, JESUS from the Jesus Film Project. Typically, the video clips are approximately two minutes each, except for the last two weeks when they are approximately 12 minutes each. Use a video imager or large screen TV, if possible.*

**Bible Observation:** *The Bible event will be read in large group while children follow along in their own Bibles. Kids should be reminded to bring their Bibles to large group. Simple observation questions will be asked during large group and kids can use their own Bibles to find the answers.*

**Week 1: Triumphant Entry** (Video length: 2:05)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get Jesus as Lord.

*\*Jesus gave up his life so we can know Jesus as our Lord.*

**Week 2: Cleaning Up the Temple** (Video length: 1:53)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get clean on the inside.

*\*Jesus helps us get clean on the inside.*

**Week 3: Widow’s Offering** (Video length: 0:38)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get a giving heart.

*\*Jesus gave up his life so we can get a giving heart.*

**Week 4: Gethsemane** (Video length: 2:14)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get to be sons and daughters of God.

*\*Jesus gave up his rights as Son of God so we can get a new status as sons and daughters of God.*

**Week 5: Arrest and Trial** (Video length: 12:27)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get freedom.

*\*Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get true spiritual freedom.*

**Week 6: Crucifixion** (Video length: 11:17)

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and...get life forever.

*\*Jesus gave up his life so we can get life forever.*

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Game Show

### Audience Participation Game

This audience participation game is a version of “Charades.” The game show host will invite two shepherds from the audience to come forward. The audience is divided in half with each half working with one of the two up front shepherd contestants. *OPTION: If there are too many kids in the audience that make the guesses hard to discern, pick teams of kids to come forward to guess each shepherd’s clues.*

A treasure chest with clues and signs will be needed each week. Two signs are needed for the setting of the show throughout the series: One large marquee---“Meet Jesus the Sacrifice Game Show” and another sign placed above the treasure chest: “Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and ...” Each week a new sign will be taken out of the treasure chest along with an object. This week's sign reads, “...Get \_\_\_\_\_ to do whatever \_\_\_\_ wants.” The words to guess are “... Get freedom to do whatever God wants.” Along with this sign in the treasure chest is an American flag.

The two shepherds compete with one another until a child guesses the phrase that is being acted out. The losing shepherd today will be required to eat whipped topping without his hands.

Option: Use an egg timer and allow only a certain number of seconds to solve the puzzle. Ring a bell or buzzer when time is up. You need to decide what is most appropriate and challenging for your group. You might start with thirty seconds. Adjust accordingly so that the kids usually win.

Review a few of the standard signs. Holding up one finger signifies “first word.” Cupping one’s hand over an ear signifies “sounds like.” Making enthusiastic gestures of inviting someone to come closer signifies “getting closer to the word.”

After game, have the contestants exit and go quickly into the puppet script.

## Video

### JESUS from the JESUS Film Project

Gordy appears briefly to help the presenter transition to the video. He has masking tape around his hand and then wrapped around his head so it appears he is all tangled.

Gordy: Mr. King, help! I’m all tied up in this tape.

Mr. King: Oh my, Gordy. What got you into this shape?

Gordy: Well, in my small group we got to wrap tape around our hands if we could think of things we wanted to be free to do. I wanted freedom to stay home

from school and play video games all day and drink pop and eat potato chips. But I can't do anything with this tape all over me.

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, when we think of freedom as only things for ourselves, we become “stuck” on ourselves, just like the tape is stuck to you. Some things may not good for us, and is not freedom at all...but slavery to selfishness.**

**Gordy:** Oh, yeah. Well, I don't like this at all. Would you please help me get free, Mr. King?

**Mr. King:** *(While taking the tape off of Gordy)* **Sure, Gordy. But I can show you something even better. Today, we will learn how to be spiritually free. Jesus does not want us to be slaves to sin and selfishness. Instead, \*Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get spiritual freedom.**

**Today we will see how Jesus gave up his freedom and was captured, tried, and put to death. Why? Because that is what his heavenly Father wanted so he might die for the sins of the world. Even though Jesus was captured and a prisoner, he was still free to do just what God wanted.**

Using the *JESUS* video from the JESUS Film Project, show the section beginning with Jesus leaving the courtyard and entering the Jewish council. After that trial, Jesus is presented to Pilate. Stop after Pilate's comment, “Are you king of the Jews?” Jesus will reply, “So, you say.” If more time is available or desired, the video could run throughout the trial process until Pilate gives Jesus the final sentence.

### **Bible Reading: Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-11**

Read the Bible passage inviting the kids to follow along in their own Bibles. Remind kids to bring their Bibles from small group warm-up!

OPTION: The section of scripture can be put on overhead to make it easier.

Begin by saying:

**Mr. King:** **Today we meet Jesus the Sacrifice and get spiritual freedom. That means we can be free to do what God wants. Listen to this Bible reading as Jesus shows his spiritual freedom and does what God wants. He lets himself be captured.**

### **Observation Questions: What Happened?**

Typically, observation questions are discussed in the small group. However, during this series, observation questions will be given in the large group as the children follow along in their Bibles. It will be important that the large group presenter move through the crowd with a microphone or quickly call on kids with answers so this portion of the learning does not drag. If a child gives an incorrect answer, the large group presenter

can refer to and read the correct answer from the text. The reward for a child's correct answer can be a piece of candy or simply giving the chance to speak into the microphone.

*To help make this fun and interactive, the kids can compete with Gordy. He answers first and usually gives wrong answers that the children can gladly correct. (Comments marked in parentheses are Gordy's.) This should help hold the children's attention but, obviously, care needs to be taken so that Gordy does not upstage the message.*

1. **Jesus was captured at night. He was then brought to a council of chief priests and Jewish leaders. What did they want to do? (Mark 14:55.)**  
(To go home and go to bed because it was the middle of the night.)  
***They were looking for a way to execute Jesus.***
2. **What question did the chief priest ask Jesus? (Mark 14:61)**  
(“Did you bring back the pizza yet?”)  
***“Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”***
3. **What did Jesus answer? (Mark 14:62.)**  
(“I’m not your delivery boy.”)  
***“Yes, I am, and you will see the Son of Man in the highest position in heaven. He will be coming with the clouds of heaven.” Note that Jesus did not try to defend himself so he might escape the cross.***
4. **The chief priests and Jewish leaders sent Jesus to Pilate who was the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews. What did he say? (Mark 15:2)**  
(“I am, so you’d better let me go or you’ll be in big trouble.”)  
***“Yes, I am.”***
5. **Pilate knew Jesus had done nothing wrong. He tried to get Jesus released by letting the people decide who should be put to death. The people were to decide between a really bad person named Barabbas and Jesus. Who did they want set free? (Mark 15:11)**  
(They chose Jesus, naturally! He didn’t do anything wrong!)  
***They chose to free Barabbas.***

Gordy: I don’t get it! How could those people put Jesus to death even though he hadn’t done anything wrong?

Mr. King: **As hard as it is to understand, it was God’s plan. Jesus had to become our sacrifice. Because he died in our place, even when he was perfect, he purchased freedom from sin and death for us. \*Jesus gave up his freedom so we can get spiritual freedom.**

Gordy: Mr. King, is there anything I can do to show Jesus how thankful I am to him?

**Mr. King:** Yes, Gordy, there is. Today's key verse from 1 Peter 2:16 says, *"Live as free people, but don't hide behind your freedom when you do evil. Instead, use your freedom to serve God."*

Admitting when we do something wrong and then asking forgiveness for that sin is when we receive true spiritual freedom. Then we need to turn away from doing that bad thing again. That is called repentance. Gordy, will you please pray that for us all to do this?

**Gordy:** Yes! Dear God, sometimes we forget how serious our sins are. We forget how much Jesus sacrificed for us to have spiritual freedom. Please help us to be humble and seek your forgiveness when we have done wrong. Give us strength to serve you instead. In Jesus' name, Amen.