



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 24

Jesus Ties Up the Power of the Devil

Primary Scripture: Matthew 12:22-29

Key Verse: 1 John 4:4, "Dear children, you belong to God. So you have won the victory... because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids often feel that they have no control over the choices they make. It is common to hear them say, "You made me mad" or "You made me hit you." Sometimes they might even feel that Satan is the one who forced them to do something wrong. Though Satan is powerful, he has been defeated through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection in our behalf. Even kids can call upon the name of Jesus and tie up Satan's influence. They can call upon the name of Jesus and break the patterns of intentional sin. With Jesus we can tie up the power of the devil.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: It was Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross that destroyed the devil's grip on our lives. By our faith in Jesus we are assured of our salvation and Jesus' authority in dealing with daily spiritual battles.

Jesus in us: Matthew 18:20 assures us that, as two or three have come together in the name of Jesus, he is there in the midst of them. With his presence comes his authority.

Jesus through us: God promises to work through us. He said that as we pray and agree together for anything here on earth it is done in the spiritual realms. We have authority in Jesus to bind up the power of the devil in our lives and the lives of others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

A jump rope from eight to twelve feet long is needed for much of today's theme: Tying up the power of the devil.

To begin worship, use the rope as a visual of how we hang on and follow our leader, Jesus.

Boys and girls, did you ever play a game where you had to hang onto a rope so that you could follow the leader? Maybe when you were very small, ropes were used at school to help everyone stay together behind the leader. The kids just held onto the rope so they would not lose the leader.

Did you know that in some places this is not a game? In some places when there is a very bad storm, like blizzards, people use ropes to hang onto so that they do not get lost from each other. The leader then guides people safely home.

Ropes are even used on boats during storms so people can hang on going from one place to the other without falling overboard. Ropes are also used when people climb mountains. Everyone hangs onto the rope that is attached to the leader.

Listen to this true story of a time when a rope was used in a surprising, wonderful way:

The Formerly Blind Leading The Blind:

An eye surgeon, who went to China as a missionary, began practicing in one of China's hospitals. One of the first surgeries he performed was on a man who had been nearly blinded by cataracts. The operation was successful, and the man recovered his eyesight.

A few weeks later, this missionary was greatly surprised when 48 blind men showed up on his hospital's doorstep. These blind men had walked more than 250 miles from a remote area of China to get to the hospital in order that they might have their sight restored. They had traveled the entire distance by holding on to a rope that kept them all together. And guess who had held the front end of the rope and led them all the way? It was the man who had his eyesight restored by the missionary surgeon!

In worship today, let's imagine that Jesus is at the front of this rope. If we trust in Jesus as our Savior, it is like hanging onto his rope and following him closer to our Father. As we worship and think of the words that we say and sing, let's imagine how much closer we are getting to God.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Invite a child to come forward and hand them one end of the rope. As soon as you do this, begin to wrap that child in a rope coil.

Often, Satan would want to keep us from following Jesus by handing one end of the rope to us and saying, "Do it your way, not God's way." If we say yes, he wraps it around once. After he wraps it around once it might be easier for us to sin again, and he would wrap it around the next time.

For example, have you ever told a lie? That is not what God wants you to do, is it? No. That is like choosing your way instead of God's way. You are hanging onto the rope and Satan could use it to tie you up. He wraps it around once. After you say one lie, though, often you

will have to say another lie to keep up with the first lie. Now, Satan is beginning to wrap you tighter. Each time you know you are doing something that is against God, it can be dangerous. It can wrap us up with Satan's power. Before long we would not even care at all if we did something wrong. All we would think about is ourselves.

The way to make sure this does not happen is to come to God and let go of the handle of the rope. We need to let go of our sin. We need to tell God about it and tell him that we are sorry. When we do this, God's Word says that he is faithful and just. He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Because of Jesus giving his life for us on the cross, Satan cannot hold us in our sin. Jesus forgives us. Watch how this rope can be unwrapped. Every time I call on the name of Jesus and say, "I need you to forgive me and live in me," this rope is unwrapped. I do not have to pick it up and choose to sin again in the same way.

Let's all think of ways that we might have sinned this last week. It is just as if Satan has started to tie us up. Jesus unties us when he forgives us. Hear these words of forgiveness: Through the power of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Satan's rope around you has loosened up, and it can fall to the ground.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

With the rope, make a circle on the ground. Invite the children forward to place their offerings inside the rope circle.

Our offering is an expression of our thanks to God for what he has done. It is also a way that we do not let Satan bind us up with the power of money. He wants us to think that, with money, we can get everything we need. That is not true. It is God who gives us everything we need. Money is just how he gives us something to buy those things with. Some people love money too much, and they can get tied up with it.

Giving our offering first to God is a way that reminds us that everything belongs first to God. Our offerings are simply a way to say, "I thank you, and I love you, God."



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Toilet Paper Tie Up”

Supplies needed: rolls of toilet paper, masking tape, a soft nylon rope, a red scarf or cloth

Divide the group into teams of 5-10 kids each. Give each team a roll of toilet paper and one six-inch piece of masking tape that can be used to secure the ends of the toilet paper. If possible, use toilet paper that is not perforated for tears. The harder it is to tear, the better.

The object of the game is to tie up three people in the group in three minutes. Say:

You have three minutes to figure out creative ways to tie up at least three people in your group. You could completely wrap them from head to foot, or just see if they can tie up their feet and hands. At the end of the three minutes, these contestants will have an opportunity to see if they can break the toilet paper tie-up. There is not much time to do this, so you will want to do some planning before you get started.

Allow one minute for the groups to come up with a plan.

**** Warning**** *To prevent falling and head injury, instruct children that no one who has their feet tied up is allowed to stand up. If arms are also tied up, there is no way one can break his/her fall.*

After three minutes, have children return to their seats and commend each group for the creative ways people have been restricted by toilet paper. (This is a bridge to today's Bible event.)

To debrief the learning game, have a volunteer come forward and say:

Satan tries to tie us up.

Have the volunteer hold his forearms together and make a fist with each hand. Wrap his wrists tight with a soft nylon rope or some other non-abrasive binding material.

Keep your fists tightly clenched, and see if you can get free. (With fists tightly clenched, he shouldn't be able to get free on his own.) **But we have God's authority to call on the name of Jesus and tie up Satan's power.**



Display a large red scarf or piece of red fabric. Tie one end of the scarf to the rope above the volunteer's wrists, the other end to the rope below the volunteer's wrists. As you do, say:

When we struggle against Satan on our own power, we don't have enough strength to break free. When our volunteer clenched his fists, it was like he was trying to fight Satan on his own – and he couldn't win. But when we pray for help in Jesus' name, God's power sets us free from Satan's schemes. Why do you think this scarf is red? That's right – to represent Jesus' blood, shed to defeat Satan on the cross more than 2000 years ago. What we could never do on our own, God has already done for us.

Have the volunteer place his hands against each other, palm open, in a prayer-like position. This should create enough slack in the rope so that by pulling on both ends of the red scarf, the rope slides off. (*You will want to practice this in advance, to know how tightly to wrap the rope around the volunteer's wrists and to perfect the right loosening technique.*)



Jesus not only sets us free, but with his power, we can limit what Satan can do to others and us. It is just like us tying Satan up.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Use the video, [The Visual Bible](#), to present Matthew 12:22-29.

You may want to become familiar with several other passages that describe how we, as Christians, have authority in Jesus' name to bind up the power of the enemy and all his demons. This is the principle of "tying up the strong man" so that the kingdom of God would advance. As a personal study for yourself, check these Bible references before worship:

✠ John 10:17-19
✠ 1 John 3:8
✠ 1 John 4:4
✠ Mark 9:38-41
✠ Mark 16:17-18

Application:

After the video, share various true-life modern-day stories that demonstrate how God supernaturally intervened to limit the power or influence of Satan. Two such stories are offered in the appendix.

Optional: Invite strong Christians from within your church to share their personal testimony of spiritual warfare. These need to be screened beforehand so that they accurately reflect scriptural truth and do not merely seek sensationalism. Lengthy stories should also be avoided. The KISS principle works best with kids: Keep It Short and Sweet.

After two or more stories have been shared, explain that God gives us the authority and power over Satan by calling on Jesus' name. But does God always answer our prayers the way we want and when we want it?

Choose three volunteers to come forward. Place in each of their right hands one of three sheets of paper:

Sheet 1 – Yes
Sheet 2 – No
Sheet 3 – Wait

Explain that these three volunteers are actually part of a prayer vending machine.

Then ask for one more volunteer.

Have a fourth volunteer come forward and give them a 3X5-inch card that says: "Lord, please do what I want. I think I know what is needed. In Jesus' name. Amen." Have him/her read the card loud enough so everyone can hear.

Our friend has just prayed in Jesus' name. He thinks he knows what is best for the situation. How do you think God might answer him?

Have the prayer-volunteer place his card in the left hand of the first vending machine person, who then holds up the "Yes" sheet.

God might say, "You're right. You do happen to know what's best in this situation, and I'm going to do just what you want me to do."

Give the card back to the prayer volunteer and have him place his card in the left hand of the second vending machine person, who then holds up the "No" sheet.

This time, God says, "You think you're right, but you are not. I have a better plan in mind than you do. I'm going to do something you don't like, but someday you'll see how it turns out for good, in a wonderful way."

Give the card back to the prayer volunteer and have him place his card in the left hand of the third vending machine person, who then holds up the "Wait" sheet.

This time, God says, "You are only part right. I'm going to do what you want, but not for a while. You are going to have to wait. You may wonder and question me, but someday I'll do exactly what you asked for, and you will see that my timing was perfect."

Have volunteers return to their seats and continue:

You see, we sometimes think that God is like a vending machine – put in our prayer, get what we want. But if we always got what we want, who would be in charge – us, or God? (Us.) Are we smart enough to always be in charge? (No).

Let's review:

- **Is God all-powerful? (Yes.)**
- **Can he do anything he wants? (Yes.)**
- **Does he always hear our prayers? (Yes.)**
- **Do we always know what's best? (No.)**
- **Do we always get what we want? (No.)**
- **Can we trust God to do what's best for us? (Yes – always.)**
- **Do we have authority and power over Satan because of Jesus? (Yes.)**

The Bible says in 1 John 4:4, "*Dear children, you belong to God. So you have won the victory...because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*"



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Perhaps some children would like to share how, in the name of Jesus, they have taken authority over the influence of Satan.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Have students pray for God's power to be set free in areas of their lives or world situations that obviously need God's help and blessing.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

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.

Appendix:

The following story is recorded in *Illustrations Unlimited*, James S. Hewett, editor.

True Story #1

“Angels On Assignment”

This happened in 1956 during the Mau Mau uprisings in East Africa. Veteran missionary Morris Plotts tells the story.

A band of roving Mau Maus came to the village of Lauri, surrounded it, and killed every inhabitant, including women and children – three hundred people in all. Not more than three miles away was the Rift Valley Academy, a private boarding school where children were educated while their missionary parents worked elsewhere. Immediately upon leaving the carnage at Lauri, the Mau Maus came with spears, clubs, torches, and bows and arrows to the school, bent on destruction.

You can imagine the fear of those children at the school. Word had already reached them about the destruction of Lauri. There was no place to flee. The only resource was prayer.

Out in the night, lighted torches were seen coming toward the school. Soon there was a complete ring of these terrorists about the school, cutting off all avenues of escape. Shouting and curses could be heard coming from the Mau Maus. Then they began to advance on the school, tightening the circle, shouting louder, and coming closer. Suddenly, when they were close enough to throw a spear, they stopped. They began to retreat, and soon they were running into the jungle. A call had gone out to the authorities, and an army had been sent in the direction of the school to rescue the inhabitants. But by the time the army arrived, the would-be assassins had dispersed. The army spread out in search of them and captured the entire band of raiding Mau Maus.

Later, before the judge at their trial, the Mau Mau leader was called to the witness stand. The judge asked him, “On this night did you kill the inhabitants of Lauri?”

The leader replied, “Yes.”

“Was it your intent to do the same at the Rift Valley Academy?”

“Yes.”

“Well, then,” asked the judge, “Why did you not complete the mission? Why didn’t you attack the school?”

The leader, who had never read the Bible and never heard the Gospel, replied, “We were on our way to attack and destroy all the people at the school. But as we came closer, all of a sudden between the school and us there were many huge men, dressed in white with flaming swords. We became afraid, and we ran to hide!”

True Story #2

A missionary on furlough told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan . . .

“While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I traveled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital. Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time talked to him about the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I then traveled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident. Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, ‘Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by twenty-six armed guards.’

“At this I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone out in that jungle campsite. The man pressed the point, however, and said, ‘No sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.’”

At this point in the sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day that this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story:

“On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong, I called

men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?"

The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with whom they were – he was too busy counting how many men he saw. How many men do you think stood up? That's right. There were twenty-six!

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- 8' - 12' jump rope

The Power of the Cross:

- the rope from the theme section

Offering:

- the rope from the theme section

Learning Game:

- rolls of toilet paper (one roll per group)
- 6" pieces of masking tape for each group
- a soft nylon rope
- a red scarf or cloth

Bible Reading:

- *The Visual Bible - Matthew 12:22-29*
- three signs out of paper labeled:
Sheet 1 – **Yes**
Sheet 2 – **No**
Sheet 3 – **Wait**
- a 3X5-inch card that says: *"Lord, please do what I want. I think I know what is needed. In Jesus' name. Amen."*