



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

Series: God is Our Rescuer  
Summer Year 2, Lesson 6

# Live as Free People

**Primary Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:16-17

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 2:16-17, “Live as free people, but don’t hide behind your freedom when you do evil. Instead, use your freedom to serve God. Honor everyone. Love your brothers and sisters in the faith. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”

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

Our kids grow up in a world of self-entitlement. Often, in America, we consider it our personal right to do whatever we wish, regardless of consequences and sometimes regardless of the law. Freedom can too easily mean freedom for self-indulgence. Kids need to learn that true freedom in Christ means we are filled with Jesus’ love so much that we are free to help others and love others just like Jesus did. Even if we make mistakes, we are free to try again because he forgives us. But we don’t use this forgiveness to say that it just doesn’t matter if we do evil. It does matter! God made us free so we could have victory over sin and the devil.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus took the punishment of our sin on himself when he died on the cross so we would not have the eternal punishment of hell. Instead, we are free to go to heaven.

**Jesus in us:** Freedom is something more than just our rights as citizens of America. Spiritual freedom means Jesus lives in us so we can serve him instead of just serving ourselves or serving the devil.

**Jesus through us:** Just as Jesus gave his life for our freedom, we can have Jesus work through us to proclaim freedom for others. We do this as we tell them and show them how to trust Jesus as their Savior and rescuer.

## 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.*

Welcome guests and make a big deal about how happy we are to have them. Bring them forward and have kids give applause. Say:

**We all would like you to know just how happy we are to have you here. We would like you to feel very welcome and very special.**

As the guests are up front, invite a regular attendee to come forward and give her the same number of large candy bars as there are guests. Tell this girl that she has been so specially blessed that all of these candy bars are for her. She is free to do anything that she wants to with those candy bars right now. These candy bars have been freely given to her so she can do whatever she wants.

Give the child a few moments to think about it. Then ask her what she plans to do with the candy bars. Hopefully, she will share them with the guests. If she does, she will have no candy bars left for her. That could be a dilemma. But if she shares all of the candy bars, have a couple extra to hand her as a special reward.

**We have been given freedom in Christ. Since we are free from the punishment of our own sin, we can be free from only thinking about ourselves and free to serve Jesus by giving to others.**

## 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.*

*Supplies: spool of thread*

You will need a spool of thin thread and a child volunteer. Ask the child to fold his hands and then tie his wrists together with one strand of thread. Ask if the child can break the thread. It is easy to break when it is one small strand.

**Sometimes people think that one little sin isn't very important because it's only a little thing. After all, how could *one little sin* hurt us?**

Give an example of telling small lies, saying a bad word, telling bad things about a friend, being mean to a little brother, etc., while each time wrapping the thread around the volunteer's wrists.

**God warns us to watch out because sin traps us. Even when we do little things that are wrong and we do them over and over, it can lock us into a kind of slavery. Before long, we don't even think about doing those little things. But we are doing things that hurt other people and hurt ourselves.**

Wrap the thread at least ten times around the child's wrists as you describe an example of a repeated sin, such as telling a lie and covering it up with another lie.

**Before long we are trapped. God wants us to be free. To do that he reminds us that we always need to come to him after we have made mistakes and sinned. We need to ask God for forgiveness and remember that Jesus paid for that forgiveness by dying on the cross. Then the trap of sin can be broken.**

Cut the string.

**Now we are free to not want to do that sin anymore. We are free to serve God! Let's pray.**

**Dear God, there are some things I do that are wrong that I think may not be very important. These are things like telling a little lie or saying an unkind word. Right now I'm telling you in my heart what that thing is. Allow time for personal reflection.**

**I'm sorry for that, and I trust Jesus as my Savior. Please forgive me so I can be free to serve you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **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. Talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Say:

**Because of what Jesus did for us, we give our offering to God freely, willingly.**

After collecting the offerings, pray this prayer over them:

**Thank you, Father, for setting us free from the bondage of sin. We give these gifts to you as a sign of how thankful we are. Help us to live as free people in Jesus! Amen.**



# 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.*

*The following activity is optional if you decide not to use the movie in the Bible application. Using the movie will not allow enough time to play this game.*

### **Set Me Free**

*In advance: Using masking tape, make two parallel lines on the floor that are approximately 15 yards apart. Also needed: two hula hoops or masking tape circles behind the parallel lines.*

To play the game, divide the children into two teams.

Both teams stand behind their line, facing the opposing team. Behind a team's line is its safe zone. As long as an individual is in his own safe zone, he cannot be captured. However, once a player steps over the line, he can be captured.

To be captured, one is simply tagged by a player from the opposing team. However, a player can only capture an opposing player if he leaves his safe zone after (or later than) the player he intends to tag left his safe zone.

Once a player is tagged, he goes to the opposing team's jail. The jail is a circle two-feet in diameter or a hula hoop behind the baseline. The last person captured places his foot in the jail and holds hands with other captured players. This will give the effect of a line anchored by one person whose foot is in a jail.

As more children get caught, the line of prisoners will grow toward their base. The prisoner at the front of the chain can be freed by a free teammate tagging him. The two then have free walks back to their safe zone and cannot be tagged.

The game never ends because the lines will continue to grow and shrink.

### Teaching Point for Game:

**What was the hardest part about being in jail?**

**What did it feel like when you rescued someone?**

**How is this game like us and sin?**

**What is the worship theme for today? How is this game like our theme?**

### Object Lesson:

An optional object lesson is the Siberian Chain Trick, a simple illusion found in most magic stores. In this trick, one's arms are tightly locked together. When a piece of cloth with a cross clearly marked on it is placed over the hands, the chain easily falls off. The illustration is obvious. Order from <http://www.toys2wish4.com/sibchainmagt.html>.

**We are freed from the punishment of sin because Jesus took our punishment on himself. That means we are free to take our hands and use them to serve God.**

## **Bible Presentation:**

*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.*

Read 1 Peter 2:16 & 17:

***“Live as free people, but don’t hide behind your freedom when you do evil. Instead, use your freedom to serve God. Honor everyone. Love your brothers and sisters in the faith. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”***

Then say:

**It was very dangerous to be a Christian when Peter wrote these words. Christians were put in jail and even killed just for believing in Jesus. Yet Peter told them they were free people. What do you think he meant by that? (They were free from the bondage and punishment of sin. By believing in Jesus, they would live forever in heaven, even if they were killed.)**

# Application:

*Supplies: Breakout, is from the series, The Story Keepers A.D. 64—order from <http://www.bestprices.com/cgi-bin/vlink/018713815279IE?source=adwords>*

**Now we are going to see a movie about the early Christians who lived in Rome. They were being imprisoned or even put to death for their Christian faith. In their hearts, they were truly free because they lived for Jesus.**

Today's movie, *Breakout*, is from the series, *The Story Keepers A.D. 64*. This film is a Focus on The Family Film, published by Zondervan. The video has a 1 minute, 30 second introduction followed by the 25 minute, 20 second main feature. If time allows after the video, ask discussion questions.

**How do you think it felt to be in prison for believing in Jesus? Would you have been frightened?**

**Not all Christians escaped. Some were put to death. But they were still set free by Jesus. How?** (*When they died, they went to heaven to be with Jesus.*)



# Witness

## 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.*

## 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.*

## Blessing:

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

## Song of Sending:

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



# Supplies:

## Attention Grabber:

- approximately a dozen large candy bars

## The Power of the Cross:

- spool of thin thread

## Game:

- tape lines on the floor approximately 15 yards apart
- a two foot diameter circle or hula hoop behind each line

## Object Lesson:

- “Siberian Chain Trick” (<http://www.toys2wish4.com/sibchainmagt.html>)

## Application:

- video, *The Story Keepers A.D. 64: Breakout*. (A Focus on The Family Film, published by Zondervan)—order from <http://www.bestprices.com/cgi-bin/vlink/018713815279IE?source=adwords>

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