

WEEK 1

GOD IS GRACIOUS

GOD GIVES US FREEDOM

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE



THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

KEY IDEAS

1. Our sin enslaves us.
2. True freedom is forgiveness of sin and life in Jesus.
3. Jesus forgives those who trust in Him for salvation.

KEY PASSAGE

John 8:31-36

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that our sin holds us captive and freedom is found in Jesus.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

a desire to be forgiven and set free from sin.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

share with others what true freedom means.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to show forgiveness to others as Jesus shows forgiveness to those who believe.

INTRODUCTION

The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. This means that every person who has ever lived has chosen to reject God and our sin deserves punishment. We deserve complete separation from God because we have chosen to worship ourselves over Him, the One who created us all and has given us life. However, God is so full of grace that He gives us exactly the opposite of what we deserve. 1 Peter 3:9 tells us that it is not God's will that anyone should die, but that we should all have eternal life in Him. Instead of punishing us all for our sin, God made a way for us to be saved by sending His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for us. Instead of receiving punishment, we are given the ability to receive God's grace, a gift we could not earn. We receive God's grace through forgiveness when we repent of our sin and trust in Him.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class showing a picture of a ball and chain or drawing it on the whiteboard. Explain that the ball and chain was used long ago to keep prisoners from running free when they weren't placed in jail. You can illustrate the point by having one child volunteer to be the "ball" and hang onto your leg, so that you cannot run away. Explain that our sin is like the ball that holds us down and keeps us from truly being free. Only Jesus has the power and the key to unlock the chain and set us free from it. Ask, "How does God set us free?" Remind them of the cross and what the Gospel means. That Jesus came to live the perfect life so that He could be the perfect payment and pay our sin debt that we owed to God. Jesus took our punishment for us and gives us life when we trust in Him for salvation by repenting of our sin and believing in Him!

STORY

Read John 8:31-36.

True freedom is found only in Jesus Christ. Apart from a relationship with Jesus, we are slaves to our sin. Sin has a hold of us just like the ball and chain. Jesus describes Himself to His disciples as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). Here, Jesus says once again that if we believe His Word, we will know the Truth. This means that believing in the Word of God, the Bible, is the way we can know God more. When we know God and believe His Word, we believe that Jesus took our punishment for sin upon Himself. When we believe that, and we trust in Him by living our lives in a way that pleases Him, keeping His commandments, then we are set free forever from sin's hold on us. This does not mean that we will never sin again, only that we no longer have to be slaves to it! We choose to live for God instead of ourselves. And one day, when Jesus returns, we will be with Him forever in Heaven, where sin will be no more!

ACTIVITY

Using cheese cloth or a light fabric, have one child volunteer and the other children wrap them head to toe. Demonstrate breaking free from sin by asking the other children to repeat the memory verse. After doing so a couple times, have the volunteer try to break free. (Don't wrap them too tightly so that it will be easier for them to break free.)

PRAYER

Thank God that He loves us so much that He has given us the ability to be set free from our sin. Ask God to help you desire Him more than your sins.

SONG

"Amazing Grace"

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

John 8:32, Hebrews 2:14-15

ACTIVITY

Take a bandana or scarf and gently tie your child's hands together. Explain that the bandana represents sin. Ask them to do a task while their hands are tied. Once they have tried and struggled, remove the bandana and have them try again. Explain that it is hard to obey when our sin is tying us up, but that believing and trusting in God's Word helps us be free so that we can more easily obey and do what God desires for us to do.

DISCUSSION

- What are some bad sin habits you have that keep you from obeying God?
No obeying parents, speaking when others are speaking, lying, etc.
- How does God help us to break those habits?
Read John 8:31-38. Jesus says to obey His Word if we want to be followers of Him. The better we know God's Word, the better we will know Him, and the more we will understand truth. Knowing and believing God's Word and then obeying it keeps us from sin.

PRAYER

Thank God for offering us freedom from our sin. Ask God to help you forgive others as He has forgiven you if you believe in Him.