

“Freedom in Christ”

Lessons from the Bible: John 8:31-32

INTRO:

Happy almost Fourth of July!!! What do we call the 4th of July?

It's Independence Day! What does that mean, do you think? What are we celebrating on this holiday, anyway?

Well, when we honor the independence we have as a nation, we usually talk about how awesome it is that America is its own country, not ruled by another country. We have freedom in the United States to make choices. We have rights to live as free people.

This coming Tuesday – July 4th, is an important day in our country. When we celebrate the freedom we have living in America. In this country we are free to say what we **choose**, go to church where we **choose**, be friends with whoever we **choose**, and go to school where we **choose**. America is an amazing country to live in because we have so many freedoms here! In the United States, freedom is a valued concept. The Fourth of July is celebrated yearly with great enthusiasm, as Americans honor independence and remember what it means to be free. We celebrate with our friends and family. We have BBQs and fireworks!

But there is an even more exciting freedom that we can all have! We can have incredible freedom through Jesus Christ!

Bible Lesson:

Read: John 8:31-36

So, Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, “If you continue to obey my teaching, you are truly my followers. Then you will know the truth. And the truth will make you free.”

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. Everyone who lives in sin is a slave to sin. A slave does not stay with a family forever, but a son belongs to the family forever. So, if the Son makes you free, then you will be truly free.

Read: Galatians 5:1 –

Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.

- Well, what do you think it means to have freedom in Christ? There are a couple of very important things that we celebrate when we discuss our freedom as Christians:
- For one thing, God gives us choices. He loves us and He wants us to love Him, but He doesn't force it. He gives us the free will to obey or disobey Him.

Not only do we have freedom from sin, we also have free will to choose in following the Lord. He does not force our love, but offers His love as a free and beautiful gift that will improve and bless our lives.

It really makes a lot more sense to choose to put our trust in Him, because in Him we have freedom from sin!

When we do things that are wrong, it sort of tangles up our lives.

God offers to set us free from that, and give us joy instead.

Read: Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest. ²⁹ Accept my work and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ The work that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is not heavy."

You see, Jesus wants to help us and make our lives better. He promises to give us rest and peace, if we will allow Him to.

Object Lesson – Grab Backpack --

- Have you ever carried a backpack?
- Maybe you have one like this (*hold up bag or backpack, if using*) for school. This one is pretty heavy. It can be quite tiring to carry this around all day.
- Now, let's say you had a teacher who offered to carry it for you. If your teacher gave you the choice of hauling the big backpack, or letting someone else do it, wouldn't it make sense to choose the lighter load?
- Why would you insist on doing it all yourself, if someone was willing to help?

Well, that's what Jesus does for us. He offers to carry our burdens.

We can get tired out because we worry, and we think that we need to do things all on our own.

We try to carry our own struggles, or we think that we somehow need to earn our salvation from God.

But Jesus gives it freely. There's nothing we have to do, except trust Him and willingly let go of our cares.

He won't make us do it.

We are free to continue carrying the weight of our guilt and sin and shame, to feel fatigued by our stresses.

That doesn't sound like a great way to live, does it?

Isn't it a blessing that we can let Jesus take care of things and bear our burdens for us?

He promises rest, and gives us free lives, now and forever. That's even better than fireworks!

Remember:

- We are all sinners! At one time every one of us in this room has sinned. Maybe you have told a lie, maybe you have called your brother or sister a bad name, maybe you have not obeyed what your parents or teacher told you to do or maybe you have thought a mean thought about another kid in your class. Every one of us in this room is a sinner and is therefore a slave to sin. When we are a slave to sin it means **we know the right thing to do, but we don't want to do the right thing.**
- **We are stuck in our sin and we are not free.**
But, Jesus can set us free from our sin! He can give us a greater freedom than we could ever have on earth or by living in America.
- Jesus sets us free from our sin when we admit we are a sinner and want to sin less. He lived a perfect life and then died on the cross taking the punishment for our sins in our place. When we believe Jesus is the truth and what He did for us is true then we will be set free. The Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts giving us freedom from our sin and then we want to do what is right.
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- When we believe and follow Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, then we are given eternal freedom from our own sin. When Jesus sets us free from sin, we will for all eternity be free indeed!

Discussion:

1. What does freedom mean?
2. What did Jesus do to give people freedom from their sin?
3. What are some things you have done that show you are a sinner who needs Jesus?
4. What is it like to have freedom in Jesus?

Memory Verse: *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31a-32*

Close in Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us freedom from sin
Thank you for carrying our burdens and giving us life
Help us to trust you and cast our cares on you
Remind us what it means to be free in Christ
Thank you for your love
We love you, God!
In Jesus name, Amen

Craft Activity: **God Shed His Grace on Thee**

Assemble craft kit provided by Orientaltrading.com



Coloring Page:

- God Bless America

Videos:

Here is a video to reinforce today's Lesson

Freedom in Christ –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1gAvFLrxgo&t=16s>

Veggie Tales:

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/407437350604/veggietales-tomato-sawyer-and-huckleberry-larrys-big-river-rescue?recommended=r%3Amore-like-this>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

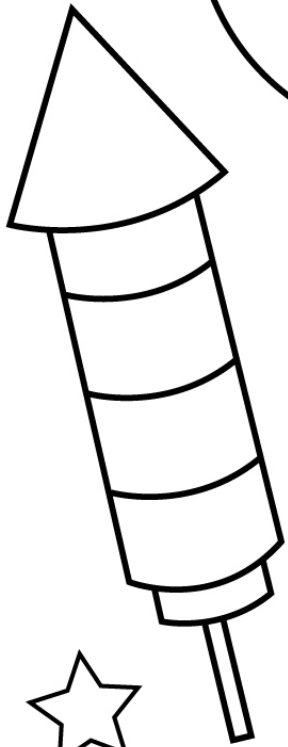
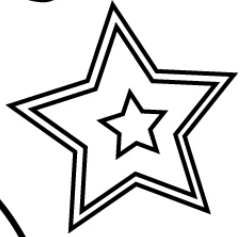
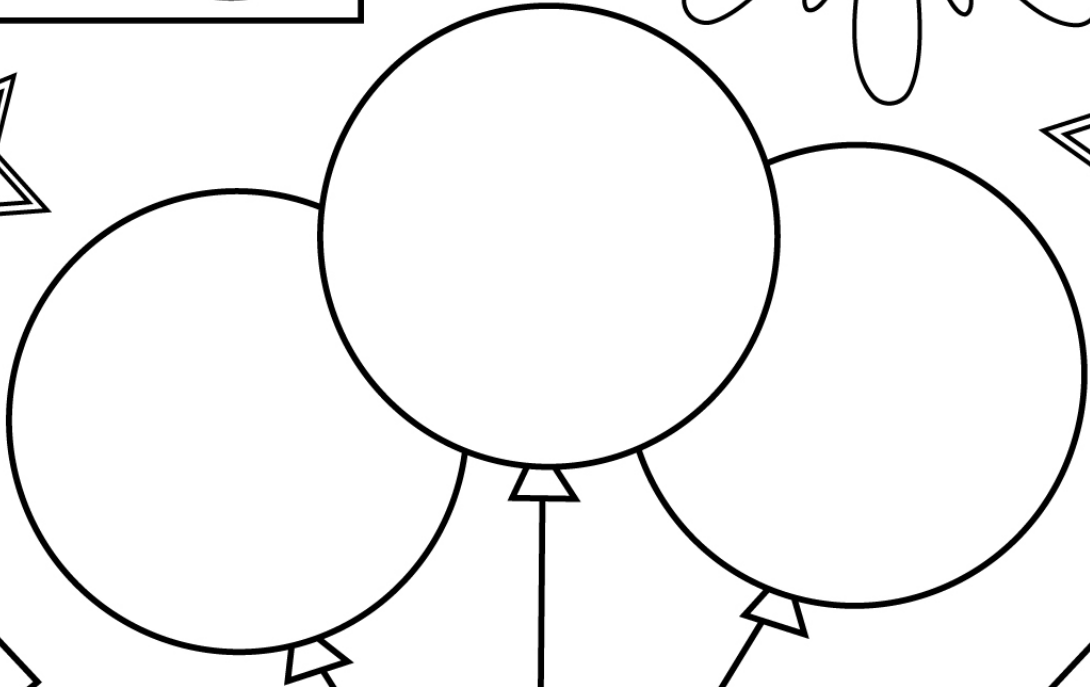
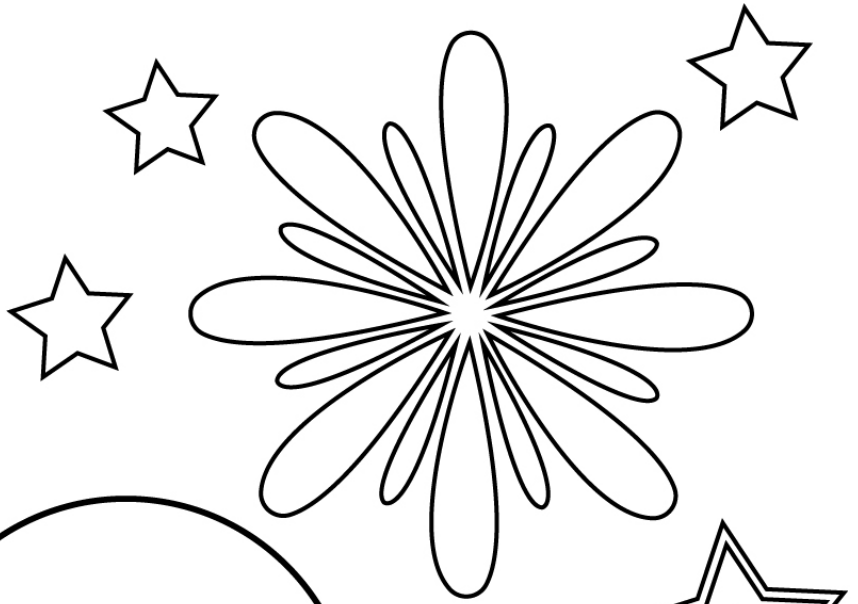
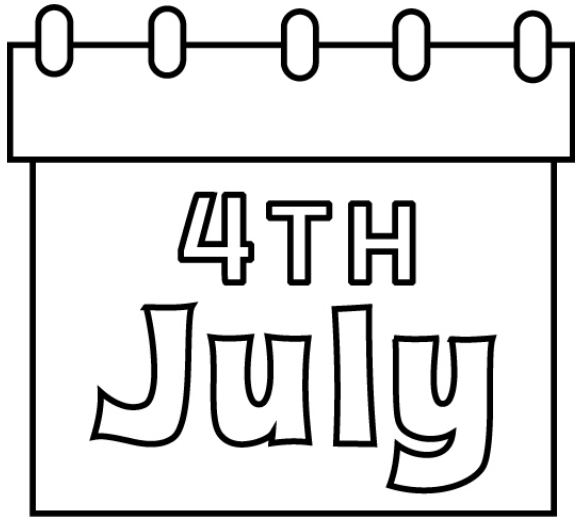
~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.

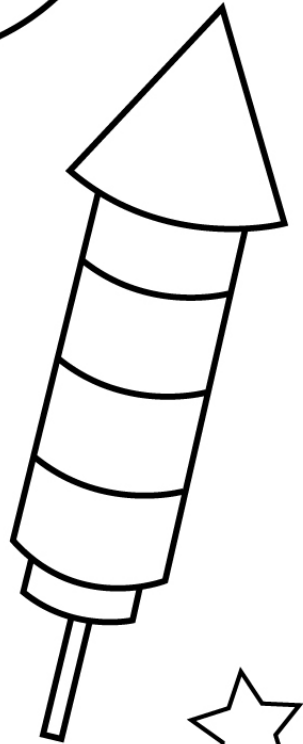
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