

LESSON PLAN

CHRIST, OUR DELIVERER

John 14:1-15; Hebrews 1-4

Lesson Memory Verse: John 8:36 - "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed..."

Lesson Aim: Teach children that only Jesus is able to save them from our sins: the punishment, power and presence of our sins.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): The story is told of a young man in France who committed a terrible crime when Napoleon was ruler. The law said that the young man had to die for his sin. But the man's mother went to Napoleon and begged him not to kill her son. Only the emperor could save the young man from death and let him go free. The man did not deserve to be saved, but because the mother pled with him, Napoleon pardoned the young man and set him free. Napoleon was the young man's deliverer. Did you know that each of us today is a criminal? Of course, we have not murdered anyone or robbed any banks, but we have sinned and broken God's law, so we deserve to die and go to Hell. But God has done something better than what Napoleon did. Napoleon did not pay for the man's sin, but God did pay for our sins, so He could be just when He pardons us. God sent His dear Son to earth to die in our place. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die on the cross for us, so He could deliver us from our sins.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us what Jesus will do when we ask Him to save us from our sins. We are born as slaves of sin. It is like we are chained to our sins and cannot break those chains. Our sins rule our lives and we are not able to be free from them. Our sins will hurt us in this life and it will send us to Hell in the next life. But when we ask Jesus to be our Savior, He delivers us from our sins. He breaks the chains that bind us to our sins. He sets us free so we do not have to sin. But we are too weak to defeat sin by our own power, so Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to live in us and He has the power to defeat our desire to sin. We must depend on Jesus to be delivered and set free from our desire to sin. The Son (Jesus) makes us free from our sins in two ways: (1) we are free from being sent to Hell, and (2) we are free from slavery to any sin. When Jesus makes us free, we are "free indeed."

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today we are going tell you that Jesus delivers us from our sins in three ways.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. Jesus delivers sinners from the punishment of sin – Jn 14:6; 5:24; Heb 1:3; 2:15; 3:8-12

A. Sinners cannot enter God's rest with a heart of unbelief - Heb 3:8-12; Romans 3:23

Since all people have sinned, they are unable to enter the glory of God's rest. Their evil sin of unbelief in Jesus' work for their salvation is the sin for which they will be punished forever in Hell that God made for Satan and his fallen angels.

B. Sinners are in bondage as slaves to sin – Heb 2:15; John 8:34

In the early days of our country, some men took other men and made them slaves. The slaves had to do whatever their masters made them do. They had to work very hard and they got no money for their work. They didn't have nice homes or the best food. Some masters would beat their slaves and treat them unkindly. Today all Americans are free from slavery to men. Yet many are still slaves to sin. They are in bondage to sin all of their lives. Jesus said that whoever sins is a slave of sin (Jn 8:34).

WE: If we have not asked Jesus to deliver us, we are slaves to sin and Satan is our master. Even though we may want to do what is right, we are not able to do it. We will sin again and again.

C. Jesus died on the cross to pay the punishment for sin – Mt 1:21; 1 Th 1:10; Heb 1:3

He was named Jesus (Savior), because He would save His people from their sins. He will deliver them from the wrath to come because He purged (removed) their sins when He died on the cross for them.

D. Jesus delivers believers from sin and Hell so they can live right and go to Heaven – Jn 14:6; 5:24

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Jesus is the life and the only way to Heaven (Jn 14:6). Those who believe on the Father that sent Him have everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but are passed from death to life (Jn 5:24).

WE: We need to receive Jesus as our Savior so He can deliver us from the punishment of our sins. We must ask Jesus to save us from our sins. We cannot save ourselves from the punishment by our good works. Only Jesus can save us. He died on the cross to be our Deliverer.

II. Jesus delivers believers from the power of sin – Jn 14:12-15; Heb 2:14-15; 4:14-16

A. Jesus was tempted like believers are tempted, yet without sin –Heb 4:15

Jesus was tempted after He fasted for 40 days by Satan in three ways (Lk 4:1-13): first, by the desire of his body to have food, Satan tempted Him to turn the stones into bread; second, by the desire of his eyes, Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world that could be His if he fell down and worshipped him; and third, by the desire of pride to prove He was the Son of God by jumping from the pinnacle of the Temple before the worshippers of God and having the angels catch Him. Jesus defeated each of Satan's temptations by the word of God. Jesus was tempted in all points like we are, so He knows what it is like (Heb 4:15).

B. Jesus is able to deliver believers from the temptation to sin – Heb 2:18

Satan will tempt believers in the same three areas that he tempted Jesus (I Jn 2:15-16), but Jesus is able to help them because He defeated Satan's temptation and destroyed his power on the cross (Heb 2:14-18). He was resurrected from the grave and is now in Heaven interceding for them as their great high priest (Heb 4:14-16). God is faithful and will not allow any temptation to trouble a believer that he cannot overcome, but He will make a way of escape that he may be able to bear it (1 Cor 10:13).

C. Jesus is able to deliver believers from temptation to triumph – Jn 14:12-15

Jesus promised that believers would be able to do what He did, even greater works than He did. How can that be possible? Jesus would provide the power by His death and resurrection. Then He would intercede for believers in Heaven. He would do whatever they asked, if they loved Him and kept His commandments (compare Jn 14:14-15 with John 15:7). He would answer their prayers so that His Father would be glorified. Peter saw 3,000 souls confess Jesus as their Savior on the Day of Pentecost and the other disciples saw thousands receive Christ as their Savior after that day.

WE: We can conquer our sins and live a godly life by the power of Jesus Christ (Phil 4:13; Col 1:13; 2 Pet 2:9; Rom 6).

III. Christ will deliver us from the presence of sin –Heb 4:9-11; Jn 14:1-3

A. Believers have a rest prepared for them – Heb 4:9-11

Jesus entered His rest when He finished His work on the cross for the salvation of sinners. His last words on the cross were, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). Now sinners are able to enter that rest by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. This rest prepares them to join Jesus Christ in their heavenly Father's house.

B. Jesus promised to prepare a place for believers in His Father's house – Jn 14:1-3

There is no sin in our heavenly Father's house, so the believers will be delivered from the presence of sin when they arrive in Heaven. Believers will go to Heaven by death or by the Rapture (2 Cor 5:1-8; 1 Th 4:13-17).

Let's look at the story of a famous man whom Christ delivered from sin's punishment, its power and its presence.

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE – "Amazing Grace" (John Newton's Salvation Story)

It was almost dark by the river. A young man peeked from behind some trees. Then, seeing that no one was near, he hurried down to the water and quickly pulled off his shirt. He put the shirt into the water and swished it around and around. Then he brought it up onto shore and pounded it against some rocks. John Newton was washing his only shirt. He didn't want anyone to see him because he was ashamed to have to wash his shirt this way. He put his shirt back on – wet – to dry. Then John sat down under the trees and began to think. He could hear the great ocean roaring in the distance. This river opened into

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the Atlantic. Hearing the ocean made John sad. He was sad that he had come from his home country, England, all the way to Africa. Life here had become very hard for John Newton.

You see, John had joined himself to a slave trader as a worker. He had agreed to work for this man thinking that he would be kind, but instead, John had found that he was cruel. He treated John unfairly. John had poor clothes and even worse – he wasn't given much food to eat. Sometimes the slaves would feel sorry for John and sneak him some of their food, even though they didn't get much either. But even worse than John's suffering outside was his suffering inside. John was lonely, but it was his own fault. No one wanted to be his friend because he was terribly, terribly wicked. He said awful things. He cursed and lied and made fun of other people. He did wrong things, too – things too bad to even talk about! John was not considered a slave by other people, but he really was a slave. For John was bound by his sins! He was Satan's slave! The Bible says that every person who has not accepted Jesus as his very own Savior is controlled by Satan.

WE: If we have not asked Jesus to save us, we are like John; we are a slave of Satan.

John shivered as he sat by the river waiting for his shirt to dry. He began to think about his father back in England. "I am going to write my father a letter and tell him where I am and what an awful life I have here in Africa," John decided. And that is just what John did. In fact, he wrote his father three or four letters.

But one day John's boss let him go to work for another man. John's new master was much kinder. He gave John better clothes and plenty of food to eat. He let John go anywhere he pleased just as long as John did his work well. John didn't feel lonely anymore. Even though he was still doing very wicked things, he thought he was happy. He soon forgot all about the letters he had written to his father.

But John's father did not forget and neither did Someone else forget him. That Someone was the Lord Jesus Christ. He loved John very much and wanted to deliver him from Satan.

John's father had been a sea captain in his younger years and he had a friend who owned many ships. He told his friend how much he wanted to help John.

One day the friend came to John's father. "I have a ship that will be sailing down along the coast of Africa. I'm sure, if you talk to the captain, he will be willing to look up John for you." John's father was very happy! He talked to the captain and told him the name of the city where John was living. The captain promised to do his best to find John and bring him back home to England.

When the ship reached Sierra Leone, the city where John was supposed to be living, the captain kept his promise. He looked everywhere for John, but he could not find him. Finally, he had to leave to go back to England. The reason the captain had not been able to find John was because John's new master had sent him up the coast on an errand. He was almost 100 miles away from Sierra Leone when the captain came looking for him.

That is when a miracle happened. Even though he was working at a new place, John was still living near the sea. One day he went down to the shore to trade. (In John's day, people would sometimes flag down ships and then trade with the men on board.) John sat all day on a rock watching to see if maybe a ship would come by. He really didn't expect to see any, but he had nothing else to do, so he sat and watched. At last, he saw a ship coming up along the coast. He began to signal and the ship came in closer to shore.

Do you know what ship it was? It was the ship whose captain had been searching for John! The captain talked John into staying on board and going back to England. John really did not want to. He knew that when his father saw how he had changed, he would be very sad, for John's father loved the Lord Jesus. But John went anyway. He really was homesick. He wanted to get away from Africa.

It didn't take the captain and his crew long to find out what a wicked person John was. He cursed God with such awful language that it frightened them. Then too, the captain began to fear that God was angry with him for having a man like John on his ship. One day a terrible storm came up. The wind began to blow harder and harder; the rain fell in sheets. The waves whipped the ship about like a toy. Everyone thought that the ship would sink. John was afraid, too. The men began to talk about throwing John overboard. They thought that because he was so evil, God had sent the storm on them. If they would throw him overboard as the sailors in the Bible had done to Jonah, maybe God would stop the storm. This made John even more afraid.

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The men all worked very hard to keep the boat from sinking. John worked at the pumps pumping the water out of the ship. The wind and waves became so wild that John began to pray. He had not prayed since he was a boy. "Oh, God," he cried as loud as he could into the stormy wind and the black night. "Oh, God, please have mercy on me!" He promised God that if he lived through the storm he would give God his life.

After many days, the storm stopped. The men were all very, very tired and hungry. They had very little food left. The sails were torn into shreds. But they thanked God for saving them.

During the rest of that long, hard trip back to England, John thought about his promise. He got a Bible and began to read and study it. Then he asked Jesus to save him and that is exactly what Jesus did. He delivered John from the eternal punishment for his sins.

When John got back to England he was a different person. Jesus had changed him inside. He was very, very sorry for all the horrible things he had done and said. Now he wanted to give his life to the Lord and tell others about Him. As John Newton gave more and more of his life to be controlled by Jesus, the Lord delivered him from the power of sin. John studied the Bible and soon became a preacher.

The people in John's church loved him very much. He led many to Jesus. He helped many who were mixed up or in trouble. He also wrote hymns, for his heart was always bubbling over with praise to God for saving such a wretch as he had been. Today John Newton is in heaven with the Lord where there is no sin at all. But we still sing in our church a hymn that he wrote. It fit John Newton well. Listen to the words:

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."

(If the children know this song, you may want to sing it with them.)

BE (for Action): It seems impossible that we could ever become as wicked as John Newton did, doesn't it? He was sin's slave. But it is not impossible for us to become that bad because we are all sinners according to God's Word. Do you know that John had a mother who loved Jesus very much and she taught him lots of Bible stories and helped him memorize verses? (She died when John was seven years old.) John started out like a "good boy." But he never really asked Jesus to be his Savior. He knew about Jesus and he could quote verses as a boy, but he was not saved until he was a man. Only then was Jesus able to deliver John because it took that long for John Newton to ask Jesus to save him. On his way back to England he was saved from the punishment of sin. After he was saved from the punishment of sin, John gave his life to Jesus and Jesus delivered him from the power of sin. When John died, he went to Heaven to be with the Lord Jesus and he was delivered from the presence of sin.

If you have never asked Jesus to save you, today is the right time to do it. John suffered a lot of unnecessary troubles because he refused to receive Jesus as his Savior. If he had been saved as a boy, he could have used even more of his life to serve the Lord. I will help you receive Jesus as your Savior after our class is dismissed.

If you are saved, you need to ask the Lord to give your life to the Lord to use you wherever He wants like John Newton did. The Lord will do wonderful things with your life if you will obey Him.

Pray for your students to obey the Lord.