

## LESSON PLAN

### FREEDOM

**John 8:32, 36; Romans 6:18-22; Galatians 5:1**

**Lesson Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:18 - "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

**Lesson Aim:** Teach children that Jesus can free them from fear and from all sins.

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

**KEY (for Attention):** J. Wilbur Chapman tells this moving story concerning the famous painting, "The Last Supper," by Leonardo da Vinci:

Da Vinci had worked long and hard on the painting but could not find a man to use as the model for painting Christ. It had to be someone whose face showed that he lived a pure life. For many months da Vinci searched. Finally he noticed a young man singing in a choir in an old church in Rome. His face was beautiful and his life, da Vinci discovered, was clean. The artist knew at once that he had found his model. So Pietro Bandinelli (for that was the young man's name) sat as a model while Leonardo da Vinci painted Christ.

Years hurried by but still the great painting, "The Last Supper" was not complete. All of the faithful disciples had been done, but da Vinci had not been able to find anyone who could sit as a model for Judas Iscariot. He felt it had to be someone whose face showed the wickedness of his life and his heart.

One day as he passed a beggar on the street, he realized he had found what he wanted. The man's face was hard and ugly and showed more than any face he'd ever seen, the scars that sin and hate can leave. The beggar agreed to sit for da Vinci as a model for Judas.

After da Vinci had completed his work, he turned to the beggar and, for the first time, asked his name. The ugly, sin-hardened man looked him right in the eyes and said, "I am Pietro Bandinelli. I also sat for you many years ago as a model for your Christ. Da Vinci stared at the man in horror. At first, he could not believe it to be true, but Pietro was able to prove his identity. Finally, da Vinci realized that this disfigured man was truly the same Pietro Bandinelli whose handsome, radiant face he had admired long ago. Da Vinci shuddered as he saw the terrible ruin which sin had caused in Pietro's life.

Boys and girls sometimes fail to understand what a horrible thing sin is. Sin is the most awful thing in the universe. It was sin that changed Lucifer, God's most beautiful angel, into a cruel Satan. Sin ruined the perfect lives of Adam and Eve and brought them great sadness and then death. Our sin made Jesus, God's only Son, die on the cross to save sinners. And, boys and girls, sin is in your lives today. You are born with a desire to sin and you have sinned (Rom 3:23). Until you ask Jesus to come into your hearts and forgive you of your sin, you are slaves of sin.

What happened to Pietro Bandinelli could happen to you. If you have not received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you could have a life that is worse than Pietro's. But such a thought should not frighten you if you have asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior. If He is your Savior, He will set you free from your sinful desires so that you can live a godly life. Then if you love Him as your Savior, He will set you free from your fears and from all of your other sins.

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse for today tells us that "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 Jn 4:18). Jesus loved you so much that He was not afraid to die on the cross to save you from going to Hell. If you love Him, you will not be afraid, because you know He will take care of you. He will save you from all your fears because perfect love casts out fear. Perfect love for Jesus will cast out other sins in your life, too. Your love for Jesus will make you hate all of your sins. When you hate your sins and go to Him for help, He will give you the power to cast those sins out of your life.

**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 to learn how we can cast out fear and sin from our lives and not be slaves to them.

### OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

#### I. Unsaved People Are Slaves – Gal 4:8.

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Jesus said that anyone who commits sin is a slave to sin (Jn 8:34), There are three ways that unsaved people show that they are slaves to sin. Paul mentioned these three ways in his letter to the church in Ephesus (Eph 2:2-3).

### **A. He becomes a slave to the pleasures of the world – Tit 3:3; Heb 11:25.**

He chooses the pleasures of the world instead of the pleasures of God. The pleasures of the world give a person excitement for a moment, but it does not last. He has to repeat the pleasure again and again; he is a slave to it. The pleasures of God are found in Jesus Christ. He gives rest by saving those that come to Him (Mt 11:28). He answers all the prayers of those that love Him and keep His commands (Jn 14:14-15; 15:7). They will rule with Him when He rules the world for 1000 years (Rev 3:21; 20:6). He has prepared a place for them in the New Jerusalem where they will live forever (Rev 21-22). These are some of the pleasures that Jesus Christ gives. The pleasures of the world make a person a slave to sin and take a person away from God.

### **B. He becomes a slave to the works of the flesh – Gal 5:19-21.**

He chooses the works of the flesh instead of the works of the Spirit. The flesh refers to the sinful nature, which makes them slaves to sin, children that are under the wrath of God (Eph 2:3). The works of the sinful nature are contrary to the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

### **C. He becomes a slave to the will of the Devil – 2 Tim 2:26; 1 Jn 2:16-17.**

He chooses to do the will of the Devil instead of the will of God. The Devil deceives the unsaved person by the things in the world to appeal to the desires of his flesh (the lust of his flesh and the lust of his eyes and the pride of his life) to trap him and then make him a slave to sin so that they do his will.

**Illustration:** You can catch a fish by putting a worm or a minnow on a hook and drop baited hook and line into the lake. When a fish bites on the bait, it will be caught by the hook in its mouth and you will have a fish. You deceived the fish into thinking it was a good meal, but it did not know there was a hook in his meal.

**WE:** We must beware of three enemies that can make us slaves to sin. The Devil deceives people by the pleasures of the world to appeal to the desires of their flesh to make them slaves to sin.

## **II. Unsaved People Will Be Prisoners Forever – Mt 25:41; Rev 21:8.**

### **A. Unsaved people are guilty before God - Rom 3:19.**

The law of God shows unsaved people that they have sinned and are guilty before Him.

### **B. Unsaved people will be judged by God - Rev 20:12.**

1. In God's mind, they are condemned already because they do not believe in Jesus (Jn 3:18).
2. In God's mind, they are condemned already because they love their evil deeds (Jn 3:19).
3. In the future, they will be judged and sentenced forever to the lake of fire (Rev 20:15).

**Illustration:** A little boy was told not to play with matches, because he could be burned. He liked to see the fire pop up at the end of the match stick when he scratched it on a stone. He did not believe that he would get burned if he played with the matches. He found some matches and a stone, but he did not want to get caught playing with matches, so he took them into his clothes closet where he would not be seen. Then he struck the match against the stone and the fire popped up on the end of the match stick. The glow of the fire on the match stick lit up the darkened closet. It was exciting to him. But he was not careful with the match and it touched some clothes in the closet and they began to burn. He did not know what to do. He was afraid that he would be punished for playing with matches if he left the closet to get help. So he stayed in the closet and soon the house was on fire and he died in the fire. That is like a sinner that does not believe God. He has fun doing sinful things. Soon the fun causes serious troubles in this life, but he is too afraid to go to God for help, so he dies in his sin and eventually will be sentenced to go to the lake of fire.

**WE:** We are guilty of many sins. We will be judged by God for our sins, which will keep us out of Heaven and send us to the lake of fire. We need Jesus to save us from this eternal prison.

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### III. Saved People Are Free – Rom 8:2; Gal 5:1.

#### A. Jesus is the truth to set sinners free – Jn 8:32.

Jesus told the people that they needed to know the truth and the truth would set them free. Jesus is the truth about God's love for sinners. God sent His Son to pay the penalty for all of their sins. He arose from the dead and ascended to Heaven to intercede for all sinners that put their faith in Him. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by Me" (Jn 14:6).

#### B. Jesus is the Savior to set sinners free – Rom 6:18, 22.

Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty that all sinners owe for their sins. This penalty was too great for any person to pay, so He paid it for them. When He rose from the dead, it was proof that the full penalty was paid. Since the penalty has been paid, sinners that believe it and receive Jesus as their Savior will be set free from their fears and all their sins (such as lying, stealing, swearing, disobeying parents, hating someone, being violent in anger).

**Illustration:** After the Civil War, the slaves were declared free. As they found out about their freedom, they sang and shouted for joy. But some of the slaves who lived out in the country did not hear the good news right away. Even though they were actually free, they were unhappy. They continued living as slaves. Some Christians are like those unhappy slaves. Jesus has set them free but they don't seem to know it. They keep right on living like slaves to sin and fear and worry.

#### C. Jesus is the Son to set sinners free – Jn 8:36.

Jesus is the Son of God and has the authority to free sinners.

##### 1. Jesus frees sinners from the penalty of sin – John 5:24; Rom 8:1.

Jesus washes our sins completely away (Isa 1:18). He removes them as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:12). Once we are cleansed of our sin, we are free from its penalty (Rom 6:23).

##### 2. Jesus frees sinners from the pleasures of the world – 1 Jn 5:4-5

Jesus gives the sinner victory over the world when he or she has faith in Him for salvation. He conquered the world and those who are in Him share in His victory.

##### 3. Jesus frees sinners from the power of the Devil – 1 Jn 4:4.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in all believers, so He that is dwelling in them is far greater than the Devil who is in the world. The Holy Spirit will set them free from any power that the Devil uses against them. The Holy Spirit is God and has far more power than the Devil, so you do not need to be afraid of him.

##### 4. Jesus frees sinners from the problems of the flesh – Rom 8:13.

a. He gives us freedom from wrong desires, i.e., to be unkind to others, to be selfish, to lie, to steal, to say bad things, to be angry, to be lazy, to quarrel, to be discontented, etc. (Rom 6:11-14, 19).

b. He gives us freedom from fear. There are very few people in the whole world who can say they are not afraid of something. We all have some fears, don't we? (Let children name some things that they fear, i.e., darkness, dentists, sickness, bullies, etc.). Yet Jesus says we don't need to be afraid of anything if we belong to Him. He promises to take care of us (Ps 23:4; Isa 41:10). The more we love and trust the Lord, the less we will be afraid (1 Jn 4:18).

**Illustration:** Let's paint a picture in our minds: Bobby is in the kitchen all alone. He knows that it is almost supper time and that Mother and Dad do not allow him to eat right before supper, but he is hungry. He opens the cupboard door, takes out a bag of candy and is ready to pop a large gumdrop into his mouth when Dad walks into the kitchen. How does Bobby feel? (Guilty, ashamed and afraid!)

Now let's try another picture: Bobby is in the kitchen all alone. He notices that the wastebasket is full. It is his job to take care of the trash. He picks up the basket and heads for the door. Just then Dad enters the kitchen. How does Bobby feel? Is he afraid? No. He is obeying his father. If we love the Lord and

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are obeying Him, we do not need to be afraid. "Perfect love casts out fear." Jesus was never afraid because He obeyed His Father and loved Him perfectly.

Ask children how they can come to love Jesus more. (Suggestions: by learning about Him at Sunday school and church; by reading His Word; by talking to Him in prayer; by working for Him; by obeying Him – John 14:21. They are all good and necessary, but that last one is especially good – obey the Lord!)

c. He gives us freedom from worry. The story is told of two little birds that spent much time watching people. One afternoon as they sat on a tree branch together, one bird said to the other, "Why do you suppose those human beings worry so much? They worry about everything!" "I'm not sure," replied the other bird, "unless it is because they don't have a wonderful heavenly Father to take care of them like we do!" All of us worry, don't we? We worry about our school work, our friends, our toys, our problems – we worry about everything! Yet did you know that it is sin to worry? (Phil 4:6-7). God has promised to take care of us (Mt 6:25-34; Dt 33:27; 1 Pet 5:7; Heb 13:5-6). Since God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us, He will supply all our needs and work all things out for us (Rom 8:28, 31-32). We need only to trust Him and to obey His Word.

### APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE

### "Jesus Frees a Man from Sin" – Luke 8:26-40

There was a man that lived in the graveyard in Gadara. He was filled with many demons. No one could control him. They even tried to bind him with chains but he broke them. He was a slave to the demons that lived in him. Then Jesus came and cast the demons out of him. Now he was gentle and in his right mind. When Jesus comes into a person's life, he is a new person (2 Cor 5:17) When he trusted Jesus and the demons were cast out of him, he loved Jesus and wanted to stay with Him, That is a good sign that he became a believer.

**BE (for Action):** Boys and girls, if you have never asked Jesus to save you, you are a slave to sin. You are on the road to Hell. Only Jesus can set you free. If you have never asked Him to save you and to set you free from your sin, you can do it today! If you would like to receive Jesus as your Savior today, please come and talk to me right after class and I will help you. If you are already saved, Jesus wants to set you free from your sins. Some still do these sins every day. That is foolish, isn't it? The Bible says, "Perfect love casts out fear." The more we truly love and trust Jesus, the less we will sin, worry and be afraid. The only way you can get perfect love is to obey the Lord. Will you obey Him and do everything that He tells you to do? If you do, you will be more fruitful in your service to Him.