



**Mustard Seed Sunday Lesson for January 7, 2007  
Released on January 3, 2007**

**Jesus: Sets People Free**

Lesson: **John 8:31-38, 48-56, 58-59**

**GOLDEN TEXT-"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).**

**John 31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

**32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

33They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

**34Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

35And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

**36If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

37I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

**38I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.**

48Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

**49Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.**

50And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

**51Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.**

52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

**53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?**

54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

**55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.**

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

**58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

#### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that Jesus can free us from being slaves to sin.

#### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Sin enslaves people (explain the word "slave" to children as being controlled by bad things).
2. Jesus can set us free.
3. We get free by following what Jesus tells us to do.

#### **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Telling How to Live, you need sewing thread, scissors (round edge for safety), and an adult or teen volunteer who is well briefed on what you will do.

For helping to remember, you need paper, pencils, and colored markers for each student and a chalkboard and chalk for yourself.

#### **TELLING THE LESSON**

Jesus taught about people becoming slaves to sin. He said that if we keep obeying His teachings, we will know the truth and be free.

Some of the people who listened to Jesus did not understand and did not like what He said. They said they had never been slaves to anyone. All that talk about becoming free seemed like foolishness to them. In fact, they were rather angry about it. How dare Jesus talk to them as if they were slaves!

Jesus was not talking about becoming slaves to a master on this earth. He told them clearly that He was saying they were slaves to sin. They were not controlling their own decisions. Sin was telling them what to do. They were trying to kill Jesus—that was an example of their sinful-ness.

Jesus was the one who could make them free, who could get rid of that sin for them. He is the one who came from God.

Some of the people still did not like Jesus' teaching. They called Him names and said He had a devil in Him.

Jesus told them that He was the one who could give them real life. He had come from God their Father. The people who were listening to Him thought that their ancestor Abraham was a great man, so Jesus told them that Abraham believed in Him. They did not understand that, for Abraham had lived and died long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The people did not realize that Jesus was alive in heaven long before their ancestor Abraham lived. He was alive from the beginning and will live forever.

Some of the people did not like this teaching. They picked up stones to throw at Jesus. They were trying to kill Him, but they could not kill Jesus until God's time came for Him to die on the cross. Jesus hid Himself somehow and then walked right through the crowd and got away. Somehow God worked so that the people did not recognize Him. How sad that they did not want to listen to His teachings and obey Him!

Jesus came to break the power of sin in our lives so that we can do what is right. He can make us free to live good lives.

## **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Kara's class was taking a very special field trip. The students were going to visit a rescue mission. Kara's parents and her teacher had talked to her a lot about what to expect. Kara knew that she would see people whose lives had been destroyed by sin. Still Kara was shocked. She saw men lying in the street, too drunk to get up. She saw women who were all dressed up but who still looked sad and hopeless.

Kara heard the testimony of a man who said he had been a slave to alcohol and other drugs. *How could that be?* Kara wondered.

How could someone be a slave to such bad habits? "Telling How To Live" will talk about Jesus can help us break sinful habits.

## **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

To show how sin can enslave us, cut a short piece of thread and show that it can be broken easily. Let the children break it. Then unwind more thread and wrap it around the arms and body of a volunteer. Wrap the whole spool around him. He probably will not be able to break the thread.

Then begin cutting the loops of thread one by one. As we follow Jesus, He helps us break sinful habits until we are free.

## **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Print the word "FREE" on the chalkboard, and let the students copy it in big letters on their papers, filling most of the space. Then let them draw around the outside of each letter to create rounded, balloon-like letters. They can then use the markers to color the letters as creatively as they like.

## **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT**

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

These words were spoken by Jesus. He is telling us how we can really be His followers. We must continue in His Word. We must keep wanting to understand what Jesus says and how He wants us to live. We must keep doing what He asks us to do and stay away from the sins He does not want us to commit.

As we obey what we know and understand of God's Word, He will help us know and understand more. As we obey His Word, He will help us keep away from habits that can enslave and destroy us. Jesus will make us free to honor God and please Him in all we do.

## **Lesson Summarized By:**

**Rev. Mike D'Andria**

**Lesson Activity:**

**Jesus: Sets People Free**

C O N T I N U E R E H T A F E  
L G G P T D T N M L O M B U R  
K C N V R A R A V I N O R W O  
Q E L I U O K O N E O L A A F  
R D L G Y E P S W P R P H L E  
X I H X F A U H V H D E A G B  
P T N Y M S S B E X T E M M B  
I A M E E I S R K T Q K E S N  
W X I J H W H D J R S D D U F  
S H N N Q H B M J O F M X K K  
V L N W G U K G L P Y C S N I  
S W A N I J L K T R U T H W P  
N D I V Y O C F P L M F F V S  
S S N V E F X E K E E R F X P  
C A L K T F S E U Z Q U C Z D

ABRAHAM  
FATHER  
IAM  
MAKE  
SIN  
TRUTH

BEFORE  
FREE  
JESUS  
PROPHETS  
SLAVE  
WORD

CONTINUE  
HONOR  
KEEP  
SAYING  
TAUGHT

*17 of 17 words were placed into the puzzle.*

## Jesus: Sets People Free Solution

C O N T I N U E R E H T A F E  
+ G + P + D T + M + O + B + R  
+ + N + R A R A + + N + R + O  
+ + + I U O K O + + O + A + F  
+ + + G Y E P S W + R P H + E  
+ + H + + A U H + + + E A + B  
+ T + + + S S + E + + E M + +  
I A M + E + + + + T + K + + +  
+ + + J + + + + + + S + + + +  
S + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
+ L + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
+ + A N + + + + T R U T H + +  
+ + I V + + + + + + + + + + +  
+ S + + E + + + + E E R F + +  
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

ABRAHAM(13,1,S)  
BEFORE(15,6,N)  
CONTINUE(1,1,E)  
FATHER(14,1,W)  
FREE(13,14,W)  
HONOR(11,1,S)  
IAM(1,8,E)  
JESUS(4,9,NE)  
KEEP(12,8,N)  
MAKE(9,2,SW)  
PROPHETS(4,2,SE)  
SAYING(7,7,NW)  
SIN(2,14,NE)  
SLAVE(1,10,SE)  
TAUGHT(7,2,SW)  
TRUTH(9,12,E)  
WORD(9,5,NW)