



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

John 8:36



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Freedom Camp Curriculum

Children's Lessons

Lesson 1: Freedom from Fear
II Chronicles 20

Lesson 2: Freedom from Sin
II Chronicles 33

Lesson 3: Freedom to Worship
II Chronicles 29 & 30

About This Study

Supplies you will need before you leave for camp:

1. Enough paper (plain copy paper will do) for each student to have one piece.
2. A hat, basket or bowl.
3. Rope or yarn or twine or handcuffs or athletic training weights or a suitcase or bag packed to just heavy enough to weigh a student down but not impossible to carry (if you use a packed bag, be sure to take into account the age and size of your students).
4. Two pieces of poster board: draw a line down the center of the poster board, on one side at the top draw a pair of eyes, on the other side, draw a pair of ears (no artistic talent required - the kids will get it).
5. Popsicle sticks (you will need a lot - get them really cheap at a craft store or in the craft department of a superstore). Label four of the Popsicle sticks with the word "FAITH". A piece of paper with "GOD" written on it for the center chair.
6. Markers or crayons.
7. Party supplies: crepe paper streamers, balloons; if you have enough money, try to get some noisemakers, and party hats (these the students could make using plain paper and tape, then coloring them).
8. A large tablet of paper for Hang Man, or two small note pads for Pictionary.
9. A bag of bite size candy for favors for winning at Hang Man or Pictionary or "just because".

Instructions for use of this material:

Any time you see quotation marks, that is what you will need to tell the students. All of this is subject to your own creativity. It is only a jumping-off place. If you feel better telling the story in your own words or adding helpful information to the story to make it more realistic, please, feel free to do so.

The activities are provided to hold the students' attention - keep them involved and they are more likely to remember the object of the lesson. Keep in mind that very few people, especially student-age people, are auditory learners, they don't absorb what they only hear, they need to see, touch, act out to really make this a part of their every day lives.

The lessons are designed to take up 45 minutes to 1 hour. If you have time left over, fill it with singing songs of the students choosing or with games such as Hang Man (using words that would be associated with the lesson) or Pictionary.

If the activity calls for the students to write, have them use their seats for a table if there is none available.

Children's Lesson 1

Freedom From Fear

Jehoshaphat's Deliverance
II Chronicles 20:1-25 (especially vv. 14-25)

Lesson Aim: To help students learn to deal with fear by relying on God.

Kick Off: Do something to slightly scare the students, for example popping a balloon...or...have an assistant "scare" the teacher.

Then, get students to discuss some of their scariest moments. Give them some time to do this, and then ask, "What happened in the end? Who helped you? How did everything turn out? What is the worst thing about being afraid?"

Story Time: "King Jehoshaphat (you can call him King Jay) was named in the Bible as a good and godly man and king. During his reign, three armies conspired together to attack Judah and Jerusalem. When the messengers came to report this to the king, Jehoshaphat began praying right away and commanded the whole nation to pray, too. He called all the people together in the temple and asked God to deliver them. This was his prayer: "We are powerless against all these people coming against us and we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

Then, in the middle of all those people crowded into the temple, the Lord spoke to a man named Jahaziel and told him what to tell Jehoshaphat: "Listen, all of Judah and Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: this is what the Lord says to you, 'Do not fear because of all of these armies, because the battle is not yours but God's. Tomorrow, go down against them. You do not need to fight in this battle; stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf.' Don't be afraid-tomorrow, got out and face them because the Lord is with you." Then the king and all the people bowed down and worshipped God.

The next morning, everyone got up early and gathered in the wilderness. King Jehoshaphat asked the temple singers to sing as they went out to the battlefield; the song that they sang was *Give Thanks to the Lord for His Lovingkindness is Everlasting* (Psalm 136).

As they began singing, the Lord caused two of the armies to gang-up on the third and kill all of them. Then, when they had done that, those two turned on each other and totally killed every soldier left. When King Jehoshaphat and all the people got to the battlefield, all of the soldiers were dead. (It was the custom of those days to take what is called 'spoil' from the defeated army. This could include armor, weapons, money, and clothes, really

anything of value.) So, the people began collecting all of their spoil that God had given them which was so much that it took them three whole days to collect it all."

Bring It Home: "What are the steps to 'freedom from fear'?" Review the story with the students, assisting them in pulling points from the story – instead of giving the points listed here. For 4th grade and up, have the students retell the main points. For younger students (3rd grade and down) retell the story, in a very abbreviated form – however you will intentionally get the following details incorrect. Some of them will include: a) Jehoshaphat recognized the fear and its source, b) Jehoshaphat prayed, c) Jehoshaphat listened, d) Jehoshaphat praised, e) Jehoshaphat followed God's instruction, f) then there was deliverance. Always be sure that you are accepting of each student who is answering to the best of his ability; some may see something that was not mentioned. We don't want to make students inhibited by "shooting down" answers. Even when we adults think we are doing it kindly, we may send "bad vibes" to the students.

Recognize your fears:

"What are some of the scariest things in:
your school...
your neighborhood...
TV...?"

***You can have older students write these on small pieces of paper, put them in a hat, basket, bowl, etc. to draw out and use in the next point.

(Some of these may include guns at school, death, divorce, and ghosts. You will need to think through how you will lead in the discussion of these and other possible topics before you set out for camp. Some kids have really difficult issues that they are dealing with and we don't want to give flippant answers such as "Just give it to God.")

"What causes all of these fears?" -- draw out a specific fear and have the student address it directly (if you notice a particularly needy fear that may be common among the students, you may want to intentionally "draw" this fear to be addressed.)

Response to your fears:

Prayer – help the students to word a prayer that addresses one of the fears mentioned.

Wrap It Up: Use Psalm 136 as a spoken antiphonal praise: the teacher can read the first part of each verse and the students can say the “For His lovingkindness is everlasting” part. It may be more effective to have the students stand in a circle with their arms around each other. Teacher: be enthusiastic, the kids will follow suit!

Teen Lesson 1

Freedom from Fear

Jehoshaphat's Deliverance
II Chronicles 20:1-25 (especially 14-25)

Lesson Aim: To help the students identify their fears, develop their own method of dealing with fear with God's help.

Kickoff: Divide the class into four groups – if the class is less than ten, keep them all together. The teams will be given a group of verses to act out. The rules: 1) each member of the team must have a part in the role-play, 2) they must act out the passage in mime (no talking allowed!) Give team one II Chronicles 20:1,2, team two vv. 3,4, team three vv. 5-13, team four vv. 14-25. The teams will need to use their Bible for this activity.

Storytime: For grades 6 – 8, you may use the story provided in the children's lesson. For older teens, have each team tell verbally what their role-play was to depict and ask them to add a point that their verses had that they could not act out but think is important.

Bring It Home: "What are the steps that Jehoshaphat took that led to God's deliverance? Do you think these steps can apply to your life in school or at home or in your hangouts?"

The following are the "answers" but are not hard and fast. Let the students come up with their own steps but use these as a guide:

- a) Jehoshaphat recognized the fear and its source
- b) Jehoshaphat prayed
- c) Jehoshaphat listened
- d) Jehoshaphat praised God for his deliverance
- e) Jehoshaphat followed God's instructions

Listening – "We won't hear God speak to us in a voice, but there are lots of ways that we can listen to God. Let's name some of them."

*the Bible

*the Holy Spirit

*other Christians.....then follow!

Praise – point out that the king and all the people praised before God provided the deliverance. "Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God."

read all or part of Psalm 136, helping the students understand the word "lovingkindness" (it is a parent's love for their child).

Deliverance from your fears:

"How did God help the people against the three armies?"

"Has God ever done something in your life that you saw Him do in "weird" ways? Do we ever limit God?"

"What do you think about the spoils?" Give them some time to answer, then "Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think..."

"Has God ever done something for you that was better than what you wanted or asked for?"

Wrap Up: Have the students sing a praise chorus or hymn (try to pick something that the students a) know and b) would like!) that deals with God's goodness or love (or one that you feel applies to this lesson). *God is So Good* is an example of an appropriate chorus.

Paraphrase of II Chronicles 20:1-25 (in story form): “King Jehoshaphat (you can call him King Jay) was named in the Bible as a good and godly man and king. During his reign, three armies conspired together to attack Judah and Jerusalem. When the messengers came to report this to the king, Jehoshaphat began praying right away and commanded the whole nation to pray, too. He called all the people together in the temple and asked God to deliver them. This was his prayer: “We are powerless against all these people coming against us and we don’t know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”

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Adult Lesson 1

Freedom From Fear

Jehoshaphat's Deliverance

II Chronicles 20

Lesson Aim: To help the students to develop a method of handling fear with God's help.

Kick Off: Give each student a piece of paper and have them fold it into quarters (fold in half lengthwise and then fold in half from side to side) then unfold so that they have folds that give them four squares.

"In the top left hand square, list three of your greatest fears."

Read II Chronicles 20

"What were the stages or steps that Jehoshaphat followed to deliverance from the fear of being conquered?"

These are some possible answers: recognition of fear and its source, prayer, praise, follow God's directions.

"Now take your paper and list the corresponding sources of your fears in the upper right hand square."

"Why do bad things happen to Christians? Is it always discipline? Scan the chapter prior to our reading. Had Jehoshaphat misbehaved? So WHY?!?! Read Luke 18:35-43. What had blind Bartimaeus done to deserve this? What about his parents? What does Jesus say? Could this have been a possibility for what happened to Jehoshaphat and his kingdom? See II Chron. 20:26-30. What did God get out of this? What did Judah and Jehoshaphat get?"

"Note verse 21. Did Jehoshaphat and the people praise the Lord before or after He had delivered them? See verse 20 now. Does trust have something to do with our ability to praise God before we see His hand working in our lives? What would you do in a similar situation? Could you praise God before you knew that He was going to deliver you?"

"Now turn to Psalm 136." Have each student read the psalm to themselves. "This is the song that Jehoshaphat asked the Levites to sing as they went out to the battlefield. What kind of response does your heart give to this knowledge? How can you do the same kind of thing in response to your fears?" The "answer" is to recall all the things that God has done in our lives. This is, not only to praise the Lord, but also as a way to remind ourselves of how God has taken care of us and our concerns before.

"Go to Ephesians 3:20. What do you think about the spoils? Has God ever done something for you in a 'weird' way? Has He ever given you more than you could ask or think? Name some."

Wrap It Up: "On the bottom left hand square of your paper, write three things you have to praise God for. In the last square, place some scriptures that would help you to resolve some of the fears listed in the first square."