



# Liberation for Prisoners

Isaiah 61:1-3

## *Items Needed*

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Crayons/Markers
- ✓ The following items you will need to act out the story:
  - Something to tie prisoners hands (scarf, yarn, ribbon)
  - Canned goods or play food
  - Basket/Bag to place food in
  - Coins to "pay debt"
- ✓ Copies of coloring page
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



## Liberation for Prisoners

### Objective of Lesson

We are the prisoners who sold ourselves into bondage and have a debt we can never pay. The Lord comes and pays that debt and proclaims release for the captive, and liberation for the prisoners!

### Scripture Reference

*Isaiah 61:1-3 - 1 The LORD God's spirit is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 to provide for Zion's mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the LORD to glorify himself.*

### Lesson Instructions

1. This Bible that we read from and study here each week is full of allegories. Have you ever heard of an allegory? It is a picture or illustration of something. There are lots of stories recorded in the Old Testament (the first half of the Bible) that are allegories or pictures of something. Do you know what they illustrate? They all illustrate how Jesus Christ was going to

come to this earth as a man, like us, and pay for our sins. Why do we need someone to pay for our sins? Can't we just do that for ourselves? No. If we were thrown in prison for the rest of eternity we could not pay for the sins we have committed against God.

2. Today I am going to read you a verse and I want you to notice how the Lord describes His people in this verse. See if you can pick out the descriptive words He uses. (Read the verse) What are some of the descriptive words he uses: Poor, Brokenhearted, Captives, Prisoners, those who mourn, and those who are discouraged?
3. Today we are going to focus on one of these words and talk about what it means. Who can tell me what a Prisoner is? It is a person who has broken some sort of law or they had a debt they were unable pay, so they are put in jail and punished for as long as it takes to pay for the rule they broke or the debt they owe. It is a person in bondage and held captive because they are a law breaker.
4. In ancient times a man in debt was in danger of being arrested and cast into prison. There he would have to remain in bondage until his debt was paid, either by himself, or by another. Let's act this out. I need someone to be the person who is the prisoner. Let's say I am a grocer. You come to me every week to get food (Have a table set up with play food or canned goods from your pantry) - but you don't have the money to pay for the food. You take your food and tell me you will pay me later. A week goes by and you still don't have the money to pay me, so I have you arrested and cast into prison (tie their hands behind their back and put them in the area designated the prison).
5. Now that you are in prison, does that make you more able to pay the debt? No, you just sit in prison. You have no way to pay it so you just sit there, locked up in this dark, scary, horrible place. What if someone pays the debt for you? (Have someone pretend to come to the grocer and pay the debt) Now let's say that someone comes along and says, "I am going to pay the debt

for you and they go to the grocer and pay your debt". That person then has the right to come to you and liberate you - set you free because they paid the debt for you! (Have the person who paid the debt go untie the prisoner and set them free)

6. In this case, is the person that paid the debt the same person that owed it? No, now that the prisoner's debt is paid do they have to stay in prison? No, they are free to go. They have been set free by another. They are no longer a prisoner.
7. Our sins are debts. If we don't pay them then we will be cast into the Lord's prison for eternity; but what can we do? They are debts which we can never pay. We are all shut up in debtor's prison by nature, but Christ paid our debt and set us free! Christ has paid them, cleared the whole score; and now God, through the preaching of the Gospel, proclaims liberty to the captives, and opens the prison to them that are bound. Christ can now say to the prisoners, "Go forth," and He opens the prison doors for them. He says to them that sit in darkness, in the gloomy cells of the prison, "Show yourselves." All of this can be done because Christ paid the redemptive price for His people. Christ died and assumed the debts of God's elect and has cleared the whole score.

## Lesson Activities

- Act out the illustration
- Coloring sheet

# Take Home Lesson Overview



## Liberation for Prisoners

### Scripture Reference:

Isaiah 61:1-3 - 1 The LORD God's spirit is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 to provide for Zion's mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the LORD to glorify himself.

### Lesson Overview:

Our sins are debts. If we don't pay them then we will be cast into the Lord's prison for eternity. They are debts which we can never pay. We are all, therefore, shut up in debtor's prison by nature, but Christ paid our debt and set us free! Christ has paid them, cleared the whole score; and now God, through the preaching of the Gospel, proclaims liberty to the captives, and opens the prison to them that are bound. Christ can now say to the prisoners, "Go forth," and He opens the prison doors for them. He says to them that sit in darkness, in the gloomy cells of the prison, "Show yourselves." All of this can be done because Christ paid the redemptive price for His people. Christ died and assumed the debts of God's elect and has cleared the whole score.

Liberation for Prisoners  
Coloring Sheet

