



The One Who Holds the Keys

Matthew 16: 19, Revelation 1:18

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Markers/Pencils
- ✓ Padlock and Key
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



The One Who Holds the Keys

Objective of Lesson

The objective of today's lesson is to draw our attention to Christ, the one who holds the keys: the keys of hell, the keys of death, AND the keys of heaven.

Scripture Reference

Revelation 1:18

King James Version (KJV)

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Matthew 16:19

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19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Lesson Instructions

1. Today we are going to talk about something you have all seen and are familiar with. (Hold up a key) Can anybody tell me what this is? That is right! It is a key! Did you know the scriptures talk about keys and the Lord God uses them

to teach us something about Christ? He uses them to teach us about who He is and what He has the authority (a fancy word for power) to do, and what He does for guilty sinners.

2. What are keys for? Can you give me some reasons we have keys? Some reasons are: to keep people from getting into something, to open and close things that are locked, to protect valuables, to drive a car, to open the house door, to open the front door of a business. What about to lock up bad guys? Yes, the one who holds THAT key is a powerful person. That is interesting. So a key not only functions to let you in and out of things, but a key can also show authority too, right? I have in my hand a padlock and a key. We are going to pretend this lock is on a door leading out of this room. The one holding the key shows you who is in charge. If this lock is on the door and I have the only key, who is in charge of getting out that door? That is right. Me. I am the key holder. What if I give this key to you, (pick a child) do I have the power anymore? No, YOU now hold the power to unlock this padlock. So a key is a very clear picture of power and authority. It tells you who is in charge of what is on the other side of that lock, so whoever holds the key is the one in charge of what is on the other side of that lock.
3. Before we go any further I want us to remember what our Bible is. (Hold up the Bible) It is about spiritual things. Do you know what that means? It tells us all about our spirits. Remember our spirits are inside our bodies. The Bible says our bodies are like tents. (2 Cor. 5: 4) Hold up your hand if you have ever been in a tent. We have all been in a tent, right? It is an enclosed space that you can walk inside and hang out. That is what our bodies are. They are tents for our spirits, and the windows to the outside world are our eyes and ears. (Point to eyes and ears when you say windows) That is how we communicate with our world.
4. The Bible is all about the spiritual. God is spirit and He is VERY real. These things we read in the Bible are not made up. (James 1: 18, Psalm 86:11, John 1:14) They are not just stories. These things are truth and because we

cannot see spirit things, and if God had not written about them and taught us these things we would live our life on this earth and never know we had a spirit, and would never know who God was. Remember Adam and Eve fell in the garden. They could see spirit. (*Genesis 3: 8*) Yes. How do we know they could see spirits? We know that because the Bible says they could see God and talk to God. Then they sinned, and because we are all born from Adam and Eve we inherited their sin nature. We are all sinners and we can't see spirit or talk to God anymore. We have been cast out of the presence of God and we are condemned to die. Our bodies and spirits are sentenced to die, and we will be forever punished for every sin we have ever committed, and we commit sin with every breath we take. (*Ezekiel 18: 20*) That breath you just took, you just sinned, and for that one breath the penalty is death. (*Job 17: 1, Romans 3: 13*) Would we know that if it was not for this Bible? No. So this Bible is a gift! It tells us the truth! If it were not for the Bible we would never know we are sinners before the perfect God that made us. We would never know we are condemned to die even after our physical bodies have died. We might actually think we just die and "poof" disappear forever, but that is not so. No. We have a spirit and our spirit lives on forever - long past physical bodies. This life is very short. The moment you die you are going to find yourself standing before Christ and He holds the keys to what happens next. AHHH!! Keys! (Hold up the keys) - The one with the authority!! - the one with the power!! That is why we are talking about keys! The Bible talks about keys because it is teaching us and telling us who has the authority. The authority to do what? What does He hold the keys to? What are those keys for? What do they go to? God tells us in the Bible.

5. Can you read our first verse in **Revelation 1:18?** - OH! Christ holds the keys to hell and death! Now THAT is power. Christ came to this earth and lived a perfect life. He died a physical AND a spiritual death in the place of His people and He was raised again and right this very moment a man, a perfect and wonderful man, sits on a throne. A king sits on a throne in heaven and He

holds the keys to hell and death. What does that tell us? He is in charge of hell and death. Remember the one who holds the keys is in charge of what is on the other side of that lock! On the other side of that lock is hell - the place where you go to be punished for your sins forever - the place where your spirit goes to die a horrible and painful death forever - A death that will never end. Why will it never end? Because it is not possible for us to ever pay for our sins, therefore it will be forever. There is only one who was perfect enough and holy and acceptable to pay for our sins. That one is Christ. If Christ did not die for your sins then you are responsible for them.

6. OHH my friend, but there is good news here. He doesn't just hold the keys to hell and death. Read our next verse. **Matthew 16:19** - OHH!!! He has the keys of heaven - the place where forgiven sinners go - The wonderful place where those who are Christ's can live forever with their savior - A beautiful wonderful place where there is no sin. No sin can get in at all. Those there will have perfect bodies that cannot ever feel anger or frustration or pain. We will be out of our sinful bodies now and with our savior forever. OH what a blessed and wonderful place to be, but did you notice what our Lord says here? It says He is going to give "who" the key to heaven? "Thee." Christ gave Himself a payment for His peoples' sins. That must mean HE is the key! He holds the key to heaven because He IS the key to heaven. If you are one of those for whom He died then you will be with Him forever and you don't have to fear Him who holds the keys of hell and death.
7. Don't be fooled little one into thinking you don't need a savior. If you are as the Bible describes you, a horrible stinking open wound in the nose of God, then Oh, may the Lord show you your need of a savior. (Isaiah 1:6, Isaiah 65:5) If you NEED one, you have one. (Matthew 11: 28, John 6: 37) If you feel your need of a savior, then you have one, little one. How do you know you are one of God's children? Do you need a savior? All those who need Him and call on Him have Him as their savior and you will have no need of fearing Christ who holds the keys to hell and death. Every single one of us is going to

stand before Christ the Lord Jesus one day - the Christ, the only God we will ever know and see, the one who has the keys to hell, death AND heaven. He can do with you what He wants, because He has the power. If you are still in your sins you will be responsible to pay for them, and He will unlock hell and cast you out of His presence forever and ever, but OH child if you have Christ as your savior, He will unlock heaven and welcome you into His arms forever. Amen.

Lesson Activities]

- Coloring Sheet
- Padlock Demonstration



Take Home Lesson Overview

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Lesson Overview:

Today we talked about we have all seen and are familiar with. We talked about a key. The scriptures talk about keys and the Lord God uses them to teach us something about Christ. He uses them to teach us about who He is and what He has the authority to do, and what He does for guilty sinners. Some reasons we have keys are to keep people from getting into something, to open and close things that are locked, to protect valuables, to drive a car, to open the house door, to open the front door of a business. What about to lock up bad guys? Yes, the one who holds THAT

key is a powerful person. So a key not only functions to let you in and out of things, but a key can also show authority too. If I have in my hand a padlock and a key and we are going to pretend this lock is on a door leading out of this room. The one holding the key shows you who is in charge. If this lock is on the door and I have the only key, who is in charge of getting out that door? The key holder. So a key is a very clear picture of power and authority. It tells you who is in charge of what is on the other side of that lock, so whoever holds the key is the one in charge of what is on the other side of that lock.

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Amen.

LOCK & KEYS

