

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB
BIBLE DISCOVERY
"Freedom Festival"

Recommended for: All

LESSON AIM: We as Americans have been given freedom. Being a Christian, you will have more freedoms.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"*
John 8:36

SUPPLIES: Cake, ice cream, punch, balloons, construction paper (red, white and blue) star stickers, corn with husks on (enough for each child), measuring stick, handcuffs or something heavy for a child to hold. A flag and a cross.



OPENING:

Younger Children:

Pre-cut strips of red, white and blue construction paper for chain necklaces.

Older Children:

- 1) They can make flags out of the construction paper.
- 2) Ask a soldier, police officer, or government representative from your church to come and talk with the children about what freedom means to them. They could talk about what happens when freedom is taken away from people.

During the story place construction paper "hand cuffs" or wrist restraints snugly around the children's wrists. Another idea is to have the child hold something heavy throughout the story. This is to demonstrate not having freedom. When the story has concluded, tell them to rip the wrist bands apart or to put down the object.



BIBLE DISCOVERY: Hold up the flag and ask:

What do you think of when you hear the word "freedom" or the phrase "Independence Day?" Freedom is defined as the power to act, speak or think freely. Being free means that there is nothing holding us down or making us feel bad.

Have you ever felt like you did was so wrong that you almost couldn't breath? Have you ever lied or done something that made you feel sick? Those kinds of feelings do not make us feel free. Those feelings are the result of having sin in our lives.

Christians have been given another independence day (Hold up the cross. It is the day that we declare Jesus is our Savior and we accept Him into our hearts. Jesus died on the cross so that we would be free from our sins. Jesus loves you so much and He does not want you to live each day with sick feelings. Tell Him about the wrong things you have done and how sorry you are. He wants to help you. He wants you to feel good about yourself. He doesn't want you to feel weighed down with problems. He gives you freedom from the things you have done wrong.

Take time to thank Jesus for the freedoms he has given to us! (Break the construction paper restraints now or have child lay down heavy item). The freedom you feel now is the same freedom we feel in Jesus. The chains of sin that bind us can now be broken. Jesus is the only one who can give us freedom from the bondage of sin!

For the older ages: Pass out Bibles, paper, and pencils sign the following Scripture verses to individuals or groups of kids. Ask them to discuss and then write down what they think the verses mean to them.

John 8:33-36
Romans 6:22

Romans 8:2
Galatians 5:1



ACTIVITY: "Freedom Festival," will conclude with a party! Have a large sheet cake made. Make sure it is festive with red, white and blue. It can say "Freedom in Jesus" or something else that pertains to the holiday. Have streamers and balloons. Celebrate with a few games.

Shoes in a Muddle: Have the children remove their shoes and socks, and put them in a pile. At a signal, children run to the pile, find their own shoes and socks, put them on and run back to the starting line. The first person back wins.

Corn Huskers' Race: Place brown paper bags approximately 6 feet apart. Divide group into equal teams. Teams line up 12-15 feet from bags. Give each player an ear of corn at the start line. Team members take turns running to the bag, shucking ears of corn and running back to the team. The first team with all the shucked corn is the winner.

SNACKS: Serve punch and ice cream with the cake.



CONCLUSION: Pray with the children and ask Christ to make them free. Lead them through a prayer of salvation. Teach them the memory verse and have them repeat it back to you.