

# Free to be Slaves

Romans 6:15-23

**August Memory Verse:** Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

NOTE: What a great truth to teach our children and preach to ourselves as well! Because of our sin, we have earned death. But God's gift to us through Christ is eternal life.

**Opening Activity:** Choose one or two that seem most appropriate for your children to start the lesson. Feel free to work them into the lesson If you kids start to get antsy and lose their attention span... like ours do!

- Practice saying this month's memory verse together, along with other verses you have memorized. Say it in funny voices, say it as loudly or as quietly as you can, say it while standing on one foot. If your kids are writers, have them write it down on a pretty or cool piece of paper to hang in their bedroom.
- Pray together as a family for any needs you or others have. Remember to thank Him for His blessings and what He is doing in your lives, too.
- Talk about the concept of slavery (as it relates to this passage) with your kids:
  - Slaves are people who obey their master.
  - Before we are saved, we are slaves to sin; sin is our master. We only want to do wrong things. But when we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, we become His slave; Jesus becomes our master. Then, we want to do thing that please Him.
  - Try playing a game of "Simon Says" to illustrate how slaves or servants would obey their masters.

**Lesson:** As you teach God's word this week, remember that He is using your faithfulness to accomplish His good purposes... whether it seems like it in the moment or not! Don't lose heart and don't give up. The seeds you are planting NOW will yield fruit.

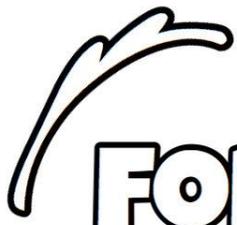
- Provide a quick recap to your kids: "We are still learning from the book of Romans about how to live in a way that pleases God. Romans was written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus and wanted others to love Him, too. We have learned that we are called to obey, to belong to Jesus, and to be holy. We've talked a lot about making righteous (or good) choices instead of sinful (or bad) choices. God rewards righteous choices and punishes sinful choices. Obeying in our hearts matters more than obeying with our hands. It is our faith in God that makes us righteous, not the things we do, just like Abraham's faith made him righteous. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can have peace with God and be reconciled to Him. Our faith in Jesus makes us righteous, not the things we do. Jesus gives us life!"
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading Romans 6:15-23. It talks about how, before we knew Jesus, we were slaves to sin. But Jesus sets us free from that! Now we can be a "slave" for righteousness, meaning that we want to do good or righteous things."
- Read Romans 6:15-23, stopping to explain concepts or verses as you go. Ask questions to keep your kids engaged.
  - *Key Concept:* Jesus sets us free from being a slave to sin and our own desires so that we can serve Jesus.
- Review the passage:
  - Vs. 15: Just because we can sin, that doesn't mean we should! In fact, because of God's gift of salvation, we should desire to never sin again.
  - Vs. 16-18: We are a servant or slave of whomever we follow. So when we followed the sinful desires of our hearts, we were slaves to sin. When we choose to follow God, we become His slave or servant instead!
  - Vs. 19-20: We can offer our minds, our bodies, and our hearts to God to serve Him in righteousness, or by doing right things.
  - Vs. 21-23: When we become slaves to righteousness, our reward is eternal life with God, holiness, and freedom from sin. Sin leads to death, but God's gift is eternal life.
- Connect the Gospel: "God created everything, including people, to be good. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God when they ate fruit God told them not to eat. They became slaves to sin. Now, everyone in the world is born with a sin nature. That means we are all slaves to sin, too. The punishment of sin is death and separation from God forever. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth so that we don't have to be punished forever for our sins. Jesus lived a sinless life. He was put to death on a cross, taking the punishment for our sin and guilt. He rose to life three days later, showing

that He won over sin and death. If we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He will. Then we can know Him, be part of His family, serve Him, and spend eternity with Him in heaven. Eternal life with Jesus is our best reward for following and obeying Him. If we have faith in Jesus, we are declared righteous. That makes us want to make good choices and follow Him."

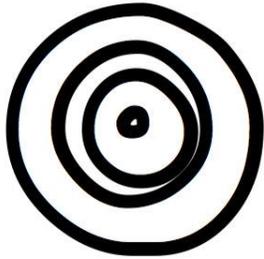
- Close the lesson: "I'm so thankful that we don't have to be slaves to sin anymore. We can find righteous things to do instead!"
- Pray, then do some of the activities below, as appropriate for your family.

**Activity Ideas:** These are designed for use at the end of the lesson or throughout to break up the "sitting still" times. Be in tune with what your kids need in order to make this lesson the most effective for them.

- *Be a slave.* Write out several tasks (such as "Make your bed." "Do 10 jumping jacks." "Say the alphabet." "Put away all the shoes.") on slips of paper and drop them in a hat. Have your kids take turns being the "slave" and pulling out a slip of paper. They must complete the task as quickly as they can. Talk about how when God calls us to do something, we should obey Him immediately. If we have accepted God's gift of salvation, we are slaves to righteousness whose job it is to obey God.
- *Tied up in Sin.* Grab a roll of toilet paper or crepe paper. Wrap up one of your children in the paper. Talk about how the toilet paper or crepe paper represents sin. It's so easy to get trapped in sin, quickly become sin's slave. Have one of your kids help the other one out of their toilet paper / crepe paper trap. Talk about how Jesus sets us free from sin because of His death on the cross and His resurrection. Use this opportunity to reiterate the Gospel.
- *Color the Memory Verse.* Print the following page and color it in, or create your own memory verse coloring sheet. Practice saying the verse after your kids color. Hang their pictures on the fridge or in the bathroom and practice the verse when you see it.



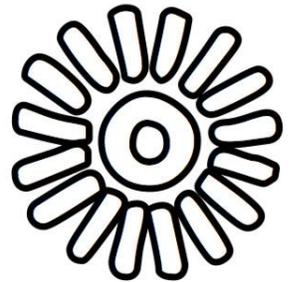
**FOR THE WAGES OF SIN**



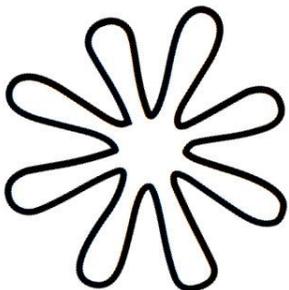
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**ROMANS 6:23**