

# **FREEDOM**

## **Talk about.....freedom**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "freedom"?
2. What are some things that you are free to do? What are some things that you are not free to do?
3. Do you wish you had more freedom, less freedom, or do you feel you have just the right amount of freedom? Why?
4. Do you think it's possible for people to have too much freedom? Why or why not?
5. Name one thing that you wish you were free to do, or one thing that you wish you could be freed from.
6. "To be a slave to something/someone" means that a person regularly forces him/herself or is forced by someone/something else to do something that is undesirable or uncomfortable. Give some examples of things that people are slaves to.
7. How much or what kind of freedom do you think God wants us to have?

## **What does the Bible say about.....freedom?**

The Bible talks a lot about "freedom." Most importantly, it talks about freedom in a *spiritual* sense. The following sections from the Bible talk about the kind of freedom that Jesus gives us.

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?' Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'" (John 8:31-36, NIV)

"I realize that God's standards are spiritual, but I have a corrupt nature, sold as a slave to sin. I don't realize what I'm doing. I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do what I hate...What a miserable person I am! Who will rescue me from my dying body? I thank God that our Lord Jesus Christ rescues me!" (Romans 7:14-15, 24-25a, God's Word)

"Jesus died so that he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." (Hebrews 2:14-15, NIV)

1. By our nature, what are some things that all people are slaves to?
2. How did Jesus set us free from these things?
3. How do you think a person's life changes when s/he has been set free from these things?
4. Do you think that being free *from* sin also means being free *to* sin? Why or why not? Please read the following Bible passage which talks about this:

"You were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13, NIV)

5. Does the Bible say that Christians are free to sin?
6. From where do Christians get the ability to "serve one another in love"?