



Released

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

RRR Series: Redemption; Resolve; and the Return.

Classroom & Arena Style Lessons

ADULT WRANGLERS

Redemption Messages:

#1 Hard Question/Easy Answer

#2 Living Free or Free Living

#3 Redeemed from What to What?

Resolve Messages:

#1 Stand your Ground

#2 Resolved to Lift up Jesus

#3 What Does God Expect of Us?

Return Messages:

#1 Ready or Not!

#2 Rapture & Banquet

#3 The Judgments

#4 Forever & Ever, Amen!



*Released/Redemption/Hard Question-Easy Answer/Adult Wranglers
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Adult Wranglers REDEMPTION LESSON #1: Hard Question-Easy Answer

Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or an outside setting.

You will need a BALANCE. A simple setup similar to a see-saw will suffice with weights that are just large rocks for example. Throughout the Lesson you will place weights on the beam. For example, a 2x4 board balanced on a fulcrum made of a log would suffice. One very heavy weight placed alone on one side will represent our “sin nature.” The other side of the beam will have weights that can represent good deeds such as: Keeping the Commandments; Doing Community Service and other acts of “goodness.” To represent the lesson clearly the “sin nature” weight should never be balanced. The point is not the “balancing act” of course, because we can never get rid of the “sin nature” as it will keep on causing a problem in life, but the point is nothing can balance out or “pay” for our sins other than the Blood of the Lord Jesus.

Alternative Arena Style: Have either a roper or a barrel racer exhibit. Then ask them about all of their “perfect” performances and their “not so perfect.” Emphasize that even a top notch performance will have a “flaw”.

Introduction:

Most People want to be known for good things that they have done.

Adults are often engaged in community service events like Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, and other humanitarian beneficial activities. These are good deeds and needful for the benefit of mankind as a whole. Assisting the elderly, assisting a neighbor, or just doing the right thing is honorable.

You don't have to be a “Christian” or “go to church” to be a part of any of these admirable endeavors so anyone with some character or basic “want to help” spirit can be involved.

I was brought up to lend a hand when and wherever I was able to. It's just part of the cowboy culture.

People get involved in all kinds of “good” things from rescuing lost pets to “clean up the park” days. And you can always find a “benefit” to raise money for a worthy cause. It just seems like there is

always one going on in the community. If you want to “volunteer” then you will find a place to volunteer.

Some people invent great things. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. Thomas Edison invented the light bulb.

Others may be great explorers; some will make great discoveries in medicine. A few will achieve the praise and honor of mankind for everything from artistic abilities to their abilities to sway the crowds with smooth rhetoric and persuade many to do wonderful humanitarian deeds.

These people have a right to be proud of what they have done, but have you ever wondered what God thinks of their good deeds?

I was taught that my good name was my greatest possession. That really applies to everyone.

Proverbs 22:1a A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches

If you promise something then keep your promise! Don't cheat people or steal from them.

Help others whenever you can. If you are really nice to everyone and keep your promises, will that get you to Heaven? And another question that goes right behind that one: Will that get you “brownie” points or “earn” you “favor” with God?

The Bible gives us an answer.

There was a GOOD man that sought out Jesus to ask a question that is still being asked today. People continue to ask “What good thing can I do to inherit eternal life?” The answer we find in the Bible is always the same.

Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

God's Word says that we don't have anything good enough to earn Heaven.

However, it is really easy to get to Heaven.

The Conversation between a Good Man and Jesus

Read Matthew 19:16-26

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

- He came to Jesus and called him “Good Master” or “teacher.” Jesus gets right to the point with the man: **He points out that the good man was looking for another good man to get advice from.** This is just in case he has missed out on some good deeds that he needs to do in order to go to Heaven.

At this point you can setup your “balance” and place a heavy weight like a big rock on one end of the balance you have constructed. The big rock represents our “sin nature.”

- Jesus first pointed out the commandments directed toward being good or kind to others. Jesus establishes that we do have control over our actions and that He wants us to treat others right.

Put “good works” weights [small stones] on one end of the balance.

- Jesus then points out the HEART CONDITION problem that the rich young man could never conquer. We are to have no other gods [including the love of riches] and we must love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, and mind. This is where Jesus stops the young man and deflates his big ego. This young man was born with the same sin nature that everyone else has. No matter how much we control our actions, our inner thoughts condemn us. Jesus said if we are even inwardly angry at someone then we have broken God’s Law.
- The rich young man wanted to be sinless instead of repent of his sins.
- He had a pride problem that he was not willing to admit. He was lying to himself thinking that he could be good enough to enter Heaven by his good deeds.
- He somehow thought that he could cancel out any laws he broke by replacing it with a good deed.

There is no amount of good deeds we can do to “out-weigh” our sin nature.

Jesus died on the cross to PAY for our sins; His perfect sinless life as the Son of God, as the Lamb of God, was payment for all.

The only requirement Jesus demands of us is our repentance.

So the question is: What GOOD thing can I do to have eternal life? Does anyone here have an answer?

Encourage people to interact here for a moment.

The truth remains: **There is no amount of good deeds we can do to “out-weigh” our sin nature.**

Once you have accepted Jesus as Savior then you have “redemption” from your sin debt & are “released” or “freed” from being spiritually dead to being spiritually alive.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36



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Adult Wranglers REDEMPTION LESSON #2: **Living Free or Free Living**

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

2 Timothy 3:4-5 ...Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

1 Corinthians 10:29 Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or an outside setting.

A horse trainer might have various “tools” or “helps” that can be added to this illustration concerning “training” the horse. If you have an individual that you can utilize for the lesson to make the points, then this makes for an excellent arena or round-pen illustrated lesson. Without constraints, without training and discipline, the “free” horse becomes useless, frustrated, and even can become dangerous. This point can be emphasized along throughout the lesson as appropriate.

If you are in a classroom setting have a picture or a PowerPoint picture of a horse. Do a little online research to better understanding a few basics of “training” such as getting a horse accustomed to certain types of tack including the basics of setting a saddle. This will aid in your presentation of the lesson.

Introduction:

The Redeemed Soul has an obligation, a responsibility, and a duty.

The grateful soul is one that understands what his true position and predicament was prior to salvation versus what his position in Christ and situation is now that he has accepted Christ.

And a grateful soul should have no qualms about wanting to please the One that Redeemed his soul.

Living Loose:

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

You cannot do “wrong” in moderation.

If it is wrong, abstain from it. Even if it only appears to be wrong, don’t do it! Some may consider this to be a harsh stand, but that is what the above verse is saying!

What is “right” and what is “wrong” has been the debate with the religious crowd for centuries. This debate is nothing new.

When my grandparents were young, the “sinful” list of vices was different than it was when I was a youth. And today the “sinful” list of vices is different than when I was a youth. This phenomenon will no doubt continue to evolve as long as time on the earth permits.

For example, ladies in the western world did not wear “pants” as a general rule until World War 2 when it became common for them to do so in order to modestly work in the manufacturing plants to produce the weapons of warfare. Then for several decades pants were proclaimed from some pulpits as “immodest clothing” for women. [In fact, this is still true today in some groups.] Today women wear pants to church functions with many ladies not even having a dress in their wardrobes. So who decides?

When I was a youngster there were still a number of folks around that considered card playing as sinful, working in your garden or yard on Sunday as sinful, or going out to eat on Sunday sinful because you are forcing someone else to work on Sunday.

To put all this in a more current perspective there are now the issues of:

- What are acceptable music styles in the church [is rock of the devil? Is contemporary acceptable? Versus the argument of the turn of the 20th century of whether or not to allow hymnals as these might be “adding to scripture.”]
- What is an acceptable movie rating for your family vs. that all movies or theatre for that matter are sinful venues? Can we decide for ourselves what a “clean” movie to watch is?
- What about lifestyles? Although the Bible has NOT changed the requirements for what is a “right or wrong” issue on the matter the society has changed its expectations. The latest statistics show that marriage is becoming less popular versus people just living together unmarried. But does this change what God says? Does He know best?

What is sinful and what is permissible becomes very confusing and frustrating to both the young and the old.

Basing our expectations of what is "right" and what is "wrong" on culture and deciding to "draw the line" as culturally permissible leaves us wide open to human error. The Word of God is still the correct "standard." And the human sin nature will never allow us to attain to that standard completely, thus, I needed Christ!

If we would refer to the scriptures and to the Holy Spirit that dwells within us as born-again believers, then the problem is solved.

Herein is the problem:

One: We don't read our Bibles and those of us that do, often do it like we eat a “snack” and not a “full meal.”

Two: The Holy Spirit can be “grieved” the Bible tells us and far too many of us have “grief” issues.

Living in Liberty

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Personal preference is not a Liberty in Christ issue. It's just personal preference. It really has very little to do with what is moral. One thing is for sure, however, our “sin nature” is ever present even after salvation, and therefore, you cannot let down your guard to the flesh.

Moral requirements do not become invalid with Christian Liberty, but rather become a vital element in the very heart of the lifestyle that will succeed in a pleasing life.

Understand that morality is for our protection rather than our restriction.

The Liberty mentioned in the Bible means that born-again believers are liberated FROM the condemnation of the law. It does not mean that we should now discard the Law.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Some things are just common sense.

We know, for example that if someone drinks and drives that not only can the driver be arrested or fined; we also know that a drunk driver can kill someone with his vehicle. This is unacceptable behavior.

We know that if you take a gun into a bank that is armed robbery and this is wrong. You can go to prison for a long time for this. This is unacceptable behavior.

On the other hand, we know that if we are generous and helpful that generally this is rewarding behavior. Participating in humanitarian causes is acceptable. Raising money in a marathon to help find a cure for a disease is good behavior.

However, none of these actions have anything to do with Liberty in Christ.

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

There has been a major shift in our culture in the last two decades. A dangerous shift has overtaken our thinking. After a couple of generations, our culture won't even notice that it was a shift but rather will count it as normal.

Satan is already on top of this shift. He has taken Liberty in Christ and used it as an occasion to weaken the Saints. The average Christian life looks more like the unsaved world of two decades ago, rather than like a reflection of scriptural living found in the Bible.

So then what does "Liberty in Christ" really mean?

Our spiritual lives should not be determined by a code that man decides upon; as those will change from year to year. But God does not change, nor does His Word.

God's grace will not deviate, nor change one bit.

Grace teaches us: to deny ungodliness and worldly desires, and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly. If you understand what Jesus saved you from, then wanting to please Him and do what He desires will be your natural desire.

Grace empowers us to live holy lives.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

SUMMARY

So how does this tie back to the horse and his trainer? The Horse left to himself without any direction, without any training, without any GUIDE, is still a horse, and he may think he has no bounds or consequences.

But we know from common sense this is not the case. Left to himself, he will never be capable of use to his owner. He will be frustrated and perhaps even dangerous.

So it is with the human. If left to himself, in his own untrained total "free" state, then he will be frustrated, won't be able to hold a job, can't fit in with other people, and yes, perhaps even dangerous. The rules and disciplines are there to protect the person and those around him.

But before you can be "trained" you need that Grace we talked about.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Discussion Questions:

How does arguing with God change His perspective of Godly Living?

Will God take away your salvation IF you have been born-again and then commit a big sin?

What is the difference in a big sin versus a little sin in God's eyes?

Do some sins carry consequences that are life-altering? As opposed to those sins that we get away with secretly? Or do we get away with secret sins at all?

Basing our expectations of what is "right" and what is "wrong" on culture and deciding to "draw the line" as culturally permissible leaves us wide open to human error. The Word of God is still the correct "standard." And the human sin nature will never allow us to attain to that standard completely, thus, I needed Christ!

What does this statement mean?



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Adult Wranglers REDEMPTION LESSON #3: Redeemed from What to What?

Hebrews 9:12

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:15

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Illustration Setup:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or an outside setting.

Arena Style: A horse, the horse trailer, and the horse's owner: Ask around until you find someone that is willing to bring one or two horses to demonstrate how to trailer up a horse. It is especially helpful if they have two horses, one that will trailer-up easy and one that is hesitant.

Classroom setting: Use a www.youtube.com "horse trailer" video. NOTE: It is extremely important that you screen these thoroughly before class! Some will appear brutal to young kids and some will have language that is not acceptable; obviously you are looking for an acceptable video.

Illustration:

Have you ever tried to load a horse on a trailer when he was not willing to go?

It can be a rodeo!

There can be any number of reasons why he won't load.

[Talk through a few; demonstrate a few.]

But in the end he either WILL load or he WON'T load on any given day. He just doesn't see where he is going. He doesn't TRUST the owner to have his best interest at heart or he just is stubborn.

There were some folks like this that just didn't get it. They didn't TRUST that God had a better plan!

The Children of Israel were God's chosen people. We read about them in the Old Testament sacrificing animals for burnt offerings to get forgiveness for their sins. They were in fact doing this as a representation of the LAMB OF GOD [JESUS the Messiah] that would one day come and be the PERFECT sacrifice once and for all. Often this setup of sacrificing lambs in anticipation of the Messiah coming to earth was referred to as the OLD Testament.

In your Bible you see both the Old and the New Testaments. The Timeline in the Old is from the Beginning of Time on earth until Jesus is born in Bethlehem. According to the Bible this covers about 4000 years of time as we measure time.

The New Testament starts around the time of Jesus birth on earth and takes us to events that will happen in the future at the end of this earth's time and the beginning of Eternity.

The Children of Israel had a difficult time stopping doing "church" like they knew how to do it. They were used to sacrifices and priests that did all the ceremonies to represent when Christ would come to be the Redeemer, the Lamb of God, and the Perfect last sacrifice.

Jesus had fulfilled the promise of redeeming our salvation, our payment for sin.

They were much like this horse. He needs to trailer-up for his benefit so he can get to his destination. **He cannot see his destination, nor can he understand what awaits him once he arrives at his destination. Therefore, he may balk at getting on board.**

Introduction:

The entire Bible, the entire Time Line of God's Plan, fits together in an understandable sequence. It is not haphazard; it is not thrown together; it is not by chance.

Yet the majority of Christians do not understand the plan that was laid before the foundations of the world. The Old and the New Testaments tie together with this redemptive plan.

***Revelation 13:8b
..... of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

***Hebrews 4:3
For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.***

To the Teacher:

Read the Book of Hebrews. This is the best background available anywhere for this lesson.

Also on our website is the Adult Lessons outline for the Book of Hebrews that is a secondary aid:

Hebrews: The Crossing Point

Hebrews 9:26

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

1 Peter 1:20

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Your faith will be challenged by the “world system.” It is extremely vital and essential that we teach more than ideas, more than just a few select “stories” from the scripture. It is vital they are taught the very foundations laid down by the Creator.

As born-again Christians, we are indeed REDEEMED. But redeemed from what? To what? And by what? And in a youngster’s vernacular “What for?”

Redemption from what and by what?

Redeemed from sin:

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Redeemed by His Blood:

Ephesians 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace...

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

No one is perfect. Just look at your siblings! Or better yet, just look in the mirror!

Heaven is perfect; we are not.

God made a way so that we can enter Heaven if we will accept His Redemption.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...

So there is a “transition” a “change” a “crossing over” from the time you have not accepted the Redemption for your sins to the time when you have accepted His shed blood.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Understand that you must be born again in order to go to Heaven. There is no “in between” on this.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

This is “redemption”. Redemption is the act of being saved **from sin.**

This is not to be confused with a cultural idea of being “sin free” while we are still living with our “sin nature.”

We are “stuck” with the “sin nature” until we are out of this physical body, but we can be “redeemed” if we accept Jesus payment for our sins.

Redeemed to What and What for?

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Once you are born-again then you have the Holy Spirit. We are redeemed **to HEAVEN** as our final destination and **to be witnesses** while we are here.

Witnesses does not just mean we live a nice life; doing good deeds. God does want us to live right and do good, but it does not stop there. If we are not telling others that they need to be born-again, then we are disobedient to His commands.

To be a witness means we have an obligation, a compelling command even, to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Once we are born-again we are redeemed also to please our Lord.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Summary:

We know better than the horse, of course. We know that he can't get to where he is going unless he trailers up!

But we may be like him in more ways than we like to think about.

For example, do you know that you need to accept Jesus as the payment for your sin debt? Yet, you keep resisting the trailer up moment? Or perhaps you KNOW you should be telling others about Jesus but just aren't doing so.

Ephesians 2:8-10 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*