



# ***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

## **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!*



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**Wranglers**

## **RESOLVED LESSON #1: Stand your Ground**

**Numbers 13:30** *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

### **Illustration:**

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

*Arena Style: Set up a rope for a Tug of War. Position two teams and the "line" that determines the winners. As you set up the teams, make one team with just a handful of participants while the obviously stronger team that will undoubtedly be the victors has bigger people or more people. This game is not about being a victor; it is about "standing your ground".*

*In the wings, standing around as observers are folks that are decisively going to make the difference. They do not appear to be engaged in this upcoming Tug of War. But after it appears that the "loosing" person[s] are going to be defeated; then have this group of adult helpers run in and pull the smaller team to a decisive and quick victory.*

*Therefore, once one team has soundly defeated the other team then use this as an illustration of "standing your ground." It is not always the easy thing to do; and you will not appear to be the obvious winner. But if you have the right "support" on your side; you are the victor.*

*Classroom: Bring a large sturdy ball to class. Pick a volunteer student to carry a cup of water across the classroom to set on a table. Pick another volunteer to carry the same cup of water across the classroom ONLY this time do so while on a skateboard. Pick another volunteer to carry the same cup of water across the classroom to set on the table ONLY this time ask them to do it while walking on the ball. It's all about SOLID ground and a good footing!*

### **Introduction:**

Taking a stand in this life is very important. People will take a stand on many different subjects like which sports team is the best to which flavor of ice cream is the best. There are all kinds of trivial matters to take a stand about.

People will get angry sometimes just over what they think is the best way to break a horse. I have seen cowboys get into shouting matches over which brand of truck is better!

### **TO THE TEACHER:**

Read Numbers Chapters 13 and 14 in preparation for this lesson. There are multiple lessons that can be taught in the story of the twelve men that went to spy on Canaan. Undoubtedly as you read, you will see more applications than we have written within this lesson.

**Summarize the Biblical setting briefly for the students in your own words before the first point: Don't get caught up with what the Crowd Thinks.**

But I want to talk to you about taking a stand on what matters the most in this life and in the life to come. You will have eternal life, whether it is forever in Heaven or in the place called Hell. This is fact and cannot be changed by any man's opinions on the subject.

**This is the Word of God.** It is critical to your spiritual well-being that you take a Biblical stand concerning **honesty, integrity, and the Word of God.**

It won't always make you popular with everybody around you, but remember that no matter what you do there will be some that won't like your stand or what you do.

**Just keep in mind that taking a stand for God's Word and our Lord Jesus Christ will be the only stand that matters for all eternity.**

*Ephesians 6:13-14a Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...*

*Romans 9:33*

*As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

**Don't get caught up with what the crowd thinks:**

Read aloud: *Numbers 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

**Don't get caught up with what the crowd thinks.**

Caleb spoke up first. There were 12 spies [The Bible tells us they were leaders in their congregations.] that surveyed the Promised Land. Ten of them came back and stirred up the crowd to say **NO** to God's plan.

It is very easy to get people to think in the flesh or think carnally. [Carnal is not necessarily sinful thinking or behavior; it is only thinking or acting according to our flesh.]

The majority may say it's okay to use a little cursing once in a while; after all, it emphasizes your point, gets the attention you need to make your point. But what does the Word of God say?

The majority may say it's okay to "fudge" or "cheat" just a little on the entry rules at the arena events; after all, everyone does it sometimes. That makes it okay, right? After all, you know someone that does it all the time, and he is a Christian. I mean, sometimes you got to do what you got to do in order for things to work out all right. Right?

**THE CROWD CAN BRING YOU DOWN! THINK FOR YOURSELF BASED UPON THE WORD OF GOD!**

**You MISS blessings because you settle for little bitty quick gratifications. For example, did you get into the event? You might even have earned points or a prize; but in the big picture, is ANY trinket, anything at all, better than the blessing of God's approval?**

The Nation of Israel was afraid and did not want to go possess the land that God had promised.

**Think about how ridiculous it is for the group to push back and be afraid of the blessing that God had already promised!** Unfortunately, I have seen so many times where people are shown God's promises and they pull back and say "I can't!"

### **Don't Depend on Your Strength:**

All of the children of Israel had seen God do great miracles as well as provide all their needs in the wilderness. They all had seen the Red Sea part; they all had seen food provided daily for them; they all saw the miracles!

Then why did most of them say "I can't!" Why were there only two young men that took a stand?

It all boils down to one thing: **What they were focused on.**

***Numbers 13: 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.***

When you look at circumstances or problems around you then it can be overwhelming if you have only yourself to depend on. Often we face a situation and have no experience to guide our decisions.

Keep in mind that God controls the situation and has all the experience. WHY NOT DEPEND ON HIM?

### **Don't Forget Who you should depend on:**

***Numbers 14:8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.***

Joshua and Caleb tried to reason with the other leaders and the congregation of people. Most people can talk about trusting God, but in the end, very few ever go from talking the talk to walking the walk.

Keep in mind that ALL the people saw the Red Sea part; they all saw the cloud by day and the fire by night that led them across the desert. They ALL saw the water gushing from a rock where there was no water before; they ALL saw the great acts of God. Why then were there only TWO men to take a stand?

### **Taking that Stand:**

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

You have a choice to make today.

You may say, no I don't, I don't have to do anything. You just made a choice. You made the choice to stay with the status quo; that is, to do nothing.

You will never be truly free and able to make good choices until you have made the most important choice of whose side you are on. Are you on the winning side? Or are you on the side of “what everybody else is doing?”

***Matthew 7:13***

***Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:***

The majority are going through that broad gate. Which gate should you be going through? Time to take a stand.

Present Salvation Here



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## Wranglers RESOLVED LESSON #2: **Resolved to Lift up Jesus**

*John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

*John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

*1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

### ***Illustration:***

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

*Have several helium balloons filled and ready for release. On the inside of each one have a scripture message inserted on a small piece of paper OR attached to the string on the outside. What makes the balloons rise?*

*Alternative for Outside Setting: Have a remote controlled airplane demonstration for a short time. Talk about the lift needed to get the plane off of the ground. How is it lifted up?*

### **Introduction:**

Flying requires lift. Hot air balloons and helium balloons get their lift by being lighter than air. Airplanes get their lift by the shape of the wing and the speed that it travels through the air. Everything follows the rules of aerodynamics from the Wright brothers to the biggest commercial jet or military transport.

For several years I worked at an aerospace company as an engineer. I worked with engineers that specialize in aerodynamics. They could explain how each plane design works, but there is one flight that they cannot explain.

How did Jesus fly when He ascended through the sky into Heaven? No hot air balloon or jet engine with wings on it lifted Jesus up.

In John 3:1-16 Jesus was explaining how He had to be lifted up on the cross. He told this religious leader that their rules and laws would not get them to Heaven.

#### **TO THE TEACHER:**

Acts 1: 1-11 details Christ's ascension. This passage should be summarized so that the students are aware of the reference in the Introduction.

Please read John 3: 1-16 in preparation to present this Lesson/Message. Briefly summarize this passage's events as you begin the section: Resolved to Trust Him.

Jesus told Nicodemus that His death on the cross was the only way to get to Heaven. Nicodemus had to believe that Jesus was the Messiah and repent.

After you are saved/born-again there are obligations to lift up Jesus in other ways.

### **Resolved to Trust Him:**

#### **Resolve Definition: To decide firmly on a course of action.**

There is an old hymn that we used to sing in church when I was growing up:

*I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delights;  
Things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight.*

*I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;  
Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to thee.*

***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.***

Jesus just messed up Nicodemus whole understanding of the scriptures. Up until that time in history, parts of the Old Testament were the only written Word of God. It told about the Law and keeping of the Law; it also told of the coming Messiah [Who was Jesus]. Nicodemus was part of an established religious group that ruled over all of the Jewish people. He had been taught that keeping the Law was the most important thing he could do as a religious man. He did not yet understand that the Law was being fulfilled right in front of him and that the Messiah was looking him in the eye.

The Messiah, Jesus, had to come to pay for our sins so that we could become His righteousness. There is nothing good enough in us that will ever make us righteous. Therefore, we needed Him, Jesus. This is what He was explaining to Nicodemus and also to the other Jews.

***1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.***

***Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.***

Jesus says: Trust Me, not in the laws or rules, but trust Me.

To trust Jesus, you must be resolute (determined) that He is the Lamb of God. To trust Jesus, you must "lift Him up" to be the way to Heaven. Nothing else will do.

### **Resolved to Talk to Him:**

***Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;***

Prayer is not optional if you want to have a close relationship or power with God.

In Luke 18 Jesus tells of a widow woman that went time after time to a judge asking for her petition. The judge got really tired of her persistence. Finally the judge gave her the request.

Jesus says he wants us to take everything to Him; but don't worry, He will not get tired of us coming.

Most Christians make the mistake of thinking that they should only take the hard stuff to God and leave Him alone the rest of the time. Jesus wants us to come to Him all of the time and avoid making messes.

Communication is two sided. You should not expect to hear an audible voice from God. However, He does say that He speaks to us. He speaks to us through His Holy Spirit and He speaks to us through His written Word, as well.

***Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.***

Did you know that you can hinder your prayers from being answered?

***James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.***

What is your motive, your reason for praying? Is it to just get things from God, like asking for things from a parent? Is it for talking with Him, asking what He wants you to do, how to act, so that you can be close to Him?

***1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

Resolve (make up your mind) to lift up Jesus as the most important thing in your life. When you do, you don't worry so much about the "sin" in your life as much as you do about "being close" to Him.

**Wanting to please Jesus because you love Him is much easier than trying to please Him because you think you must.**

### **Resolved to Tell about Him:**

How many of you have heard of "The Great Commission?" That phrase of words is not in the Bible, but The Great Commission is. Jesus "commissioned" or "commanded" his disciples to tell the world about Him and the Salvation He offers. He also expects that of everyone that is born-again/saved.

***Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***



*Acts 1:8-9 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. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

***Go spread the Good News that Jesus rose from the grave in victory; ascended up into Heaven, and the He WILL come again in like manner.***

Present Salvation Here.



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## Wranglers RESOLVED LESSON #3: **What does God expect of us?**

**John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**

### **Illustration:**

*This message can be illustrated inside a classroom but we prefer the outside setting.*

**Outside Style: A wagon ride message.** *Have a wagon ride out and around the facilities and property. Stop out several hundred yards away and have the message while the students are on the wagon.*

**Classroom setting:** *Set the room up in a different fashion than normal. Bring in some hay bales and have a pretend wagon ride out into the countryside. Set up the room to look outdoors. Have the kids climb into the wagon circle of hay. Pretend with some outdoors sounds on a CD. OR you can download a wagon ride experience on a YouTube video and use on the screen. Let the imaginations go that they are outside on a wagon ride to the destination of the lesson.*

### **Introduction:**

Some of the students looked EXCITED this morning when they found out we were having a wagon/hay ride! Sounds like a really fun way to have “church!”

We get really excited when we get to do special things. Sometimes it’s exciting to cheer for a team and they actually WIN! Sometimes it’s exciting to enter the dummy roping and WIN! Sometimes it’s exciting to go for PIZZA! We all get excited about special things!

In John Chapter 4 we read about a woman that got very excited and ran all over town shouting and waving her hands and knocking on doors and telling people in the streets what happened to her and .....well, when I tell you this story you will see that she got really excited. If she had FACEBOOK back then she would have had it there first; if she had Snapchat, then she would have had a picture of Jesus and she in a selfie at the well and she would have labeled it something like: BEST DAY EVER!

COME SEE THIS! YOU ARE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS MAN! He is GOD! He told me everything I have ever done! He gave me water to drink that will last for eternity!

#### **To the Teacher:**

Read John 4: 3-29 in order to prepare for the lesson. Pick out the verses that are age appropriate; summarize the rest. Tell the story of the woman at the well with excitement!

It all started in **John 4:4** when Jesus said that “...**he must needs go through Samaria.**”

Jesus stopped at a well that Jacob dug. The town of Sychar had grown up beside the well because of the water that was available. A woman came to the well in the middle of the day. Jesus started a conversation with her.

You may not think that is so strange. However, she was a Samaritan and Jews did not speak to them. Jesus talked of Living Water that He could give her. She tried to start an argument, but Jesus had not come all this way to argue, He went right back to telling her that she had a need.

(Summarize the story from John 4:7-29)

He brought her to a place where she was aware that she was a sinner and could not keep the Old Testament Law. As soon as she realized that He really was the Savior and that she needed to trust Him to forgive her sins, then she repented and was saved.

### **Limited Time**

The woman at the well only had a limited time on the earth. She's not alive anymore; that was about 2000 years ago. But did you know that we only have a limited time on the earth, too?

***1 Peter 1:24-25 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.***

**So as soon as she was saved/born-again she did what any new Christian that is EXCITED would do.....she ran and told someone that she had found JESUS.**

**She didn't have a 12 week program to learn how to be a Christian. Should she wear this or not wear that? Should she stop talking trashy talk? Should she try real hard to read her Bible? Should she attend the Ladies Missionary Group? NOPE, she didn't start off her Christian life that way. She started by pointing everyone she saw to Jesus.**

**She didn't have a course on Soul-winning [How to lead people to Christ.]**

**She didn't take the time to figure out “how to break the news” to her friends that did not know Jesus that she would not be living like them anymore; she had a great change at the well! She'd met the Master!**

**No wasting time for her. She went right to the task; she began to share Jesus immediately.**

### **Limited Resources**

Most likely at your age, you don't have a big bank account. You don't have a LOT of money in your pocket today. Most likely you don't own a truck or a car yet. Most likely, if you own a horse, it was paid for by your parent or another adult. Most likely, you don't have a lot of resources to get around

town without someone else driving you. Even your lunch is bought by someone else. Your boots or shoes were bought by someone like your parents or grandparents, most likely.

So you have limited resources. You may have a cell phone, but it may be limited to text, for example. Do you know who said this?

***Psalm 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills***

Jesus has all the resources you will ever need for anything.

We often hear people say that they don't have the resources to do things. For example, people may say they don't have enough money to buy a car that they need. Or people may say that they don't know where to find someone to train their horse because he is a "special" horse and needs special attention. These people are in need of resources [or helps] to accomplish something.

Jesus can make your car run longer if needed until you can save enough to buy that car you need. Jesus can put people in your pathway that have the skills needed to train your horse. He cares about the little details of our lives.

YOU may think you don't have the resources you need to serve Jesus today at your age, but you really do. He may bring cousins, or school friends, or grown-ups into your life that you can share the good news of Jesus with. Many times grown-ups will listen to children before they will listen to a grown-up talk about Jesus.

***Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

Jesus knows what you need before you do! Whether it's groceries in the house or an opportunity to tell someone else about Jesus, He can supply your resources.

### **Limited Potential**

***1 Peter 1:15-16, But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.....***

***Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.***

Did you know that YOU can put limitations upon what God will do in your life? Did you know that when you "willfully" sin after you are saved, that it disappoints God, but it also puts a wall up between you and God's fellowship?

When you tell your parents that you do not intend to get into trouble again for disobedience, for example, you most likely don't intend to disobey again. However, sooner or later, you will disobey in some area. That is the sin nature that we war against all of our lives.

But when you on purpose, ignore what you are told and go right back to what you were corrected about, that is "doing it on purpose" or "doing it in spite of what you were told." Then it becomes sin on purpose! That is disobedience! That is "willful" sin.

That breaks your fellowship with God. You do not lose your position as a child of God, because you got that when you were adopted into His family at your salvation. But you will need to ask forgiveness of God in order to keep your sweet fellowship with Him. Let me explain:

***Hebrews 12:5-7 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?***

God is saying that when you have accepted Jesus as Savior, you become a child of God. At some time in your life you will sin again. When you do, you must get things “right” with God and ask forgiveness or you will be corrected by Him because He is your Father. Just like when you disobey your earthly parents, you may receive a punishment or a correction if you do not obey their rules. It is for your own good, for your own welfare that you do what is right.

**In Summary:**

It is vital first of all that you accept Jesus as Savior.

It is also important that you tell others the good news that He will take them to Heaven if they will accept Him as Savior.

Then it is also important that you live a life that is pleasing to God because He has your best interests at heart.

***Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

Present Salvation Here.