

Freed to Serve (2/27/22)

Main Verses: Romans 8:1-4

Key Verse: Romans 8:1

'Takeaway': Being free from eternal punishment means being free to serve God in a new way.

Getting Started: What does it mean to be free?



READ the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What does condemnation mean?
- Who frees us from condemnation (and thus eternal punishment)?
- How does Jesus free us and why?

Elementary:

- What does the “therefore” in verse 1 refer back to? (Rom. 7:23-25 victory comes “through Christ Jesus our Lord.”)
- What does “no condemnation” mean here? (Rom. 5:1–“therefore we have peace with God”)
- What are we free to do when we experience new life in Christ?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- Condemnation means that we are destined for eternal punishment because we choose to live for ourselves, and so are unwilling and unable to do what God wants.
- God sent his Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and be an offering for our sins so we can live for God.
- Because of Jesus’s death and resurrection, we can live for God.

Elementary:

- We are all condemned and destined for eternal punishment under the law – none of us can keep it perfectly.
- Through Jesus, we have been released from the law (which no one could fulfill except for Jesus) and we are no longer under it.
- Believers' freedom comes from Jesus' incarnation and his work as the sin offering (death and resurrection), and by the Holy Spirit's operation in providing life. When we live for God, we can serve him in new ways.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for the freedom we now have to serve him because Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again. Ask him to help you grow in your knowledge of him and to obey him as you grow in knowledge.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for his amazing gift of salvation which makes it possible for us to have peace with God and experience no condemnation in him. Talk to him about how you know him. Have you admitted your great need for him and his leadership over your life? Do you believe Jesus came to earth as a baby, died on the cross, and rose again so you can have new life in him? Have you committed your life to God, surrendering to his Lordship and leadership over your life? If you have, thank him for the new life and freedom he has gifted you with. If you haven't, talk to him about it now, and then talk to a trusted adult so he/she can help/guide you.