

Asia High School

The Birdcage Story

There's a story about a man who after several hours of studying, got tired and went for a walk to stretch his legs. As he walked down the road, he heard strange noises, "Squeak, squawk." As the man went around the corner of the road, he saw a boy carrying a birdcage in one hand and a stick in the other. Inside the cage were a dozen little field birds, and the boy was jabbing the birds through the bars with the stick. The birds were squeaking and squawking and their feathers were everywhere. The man asked the boy, "Son, why are you tormenting these birds?" The boy said, "Sir, I am having fun! I love to hear them squawk. I love to see their feathers fly. It is so much fun." "What will you do when you are finished having your fun?" the man asked. The boy smiled broadly. "Oh sir, that's the best part. I will take them home and pluck their feathers one by one and feed them to my cat." The man had so much compassion for the birds. He said "Son, let me have those birds," "No, the boy said, these are my birds. You can catch your own birds in the field." The man said, "But I want these birds." The boy said, "you do not want these birds, they are just ordinary field birds, and they don't even sing, they are useless." "Please, son. I'll buy them from you. Suddenly the boy saw a business opportunity. He asks, "how much money do you have sir?" The man took his wallet out of his pocket. When the boy saw all the money, he said, "sir it will cost you everything you have." The man knew it was a big price for these birds, but he would do anything to set these birds free. He gave the money to the boy and took the birdcage with the birds. The man took the cage to an open field, opened the door and one by one the birds hopped out of the cage. After shaking their feathers and spreading their wings, they began to fly away. As they flew to freedom, they all sang the same song. "Redeemed, Redeemed, Redeemed."

For example: (Birdcage/secondary) My friend, you might feel as though you are just like the birds in that birdcage. You are stuck in a cage of stealing, cheating, pornography, drugs or alcohol, sex out of marriage or un-forgiveness. You continue believing the lies of satan or other people who tell you, "you are not smart, not beautiful and not good enough." Then satan torments you with feelings of shame, hopelessness, worthlessness, fear, and you feel depressed and may have suicidal thoughts.

BUT, I have good news for you. God saw how our sin has separated us from Him and how satan torments us. So, He sent his only Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sin which he did by dying on the cross. Jesus bought us back, not with silver or with gold but

with His own precious blood. Jesus redeemed us from the cage of sin and death so that we can come back into a relationship with God.

How do you and I come into this relationship with God?

To be friends with God, to be saved and to go to heaven one day, there are two choices we must make.

Say, "number one." (Children repeat back) "NUMBER ONE"

We must believe that Jesus is the son of God.

Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your and my sin.

Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day. Say, "Jesus is alive."

(Children repeat back) "JESUS IS ALIVE!"

Believe that Jesus loves you. He came to REDEEM you and wants to be your best friend.

Say, "number two." (Children repeat back) "NUMBER TWO"

To be a friend of Jesus, to be saved, to go to heaven one day, we must repent of our sin, ask forgiveness and turn from our sin to Jesus.

Sin like lying to the teacher, stealing, fighting, not forgiving, pornography, sex outside of marriage or drugs and alcohol.

I have good news for you today. Say, "good news!" (Children repeat back) "GOOD NEWS!"

The Bible says, Jesus is standing and knocking at the door of your heart; the door of your birdcage is open, come out of that cage. Are you ready to open the door of your heart to Jesus? (YES!)

The Bible also says whoever, that is you and me, calls upon the name of Jesus, shall be saved. Are you ready to call upon the name of Jesus? (YES!)

LET US CLOSE OUR EYES, everyone close your eyes please.

This is the most important choice of your life.

Now, if you CHOOSE to open the door of your heart to Jesus, please raise your hand to Jesus.

If you CHOOSE to ask Jesus to forgive you of all your sin, please raise your hand to Jesus.

If you CHOOSE to have a new start today, please raise your hand to Jesus.

Let's keep our hands raised as a sign to Jesus as we pray.

Now with every eye closed please repeat this prayer after me or the translator. Pray from your heart. (Let them only repeat after translator if they do not know English well)

SALVATION PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus Christ

I believe.
You are the Son of God.
Jesus I believe.
You died on the cross for me,
Jesus I believe.
You rose from the dead.
Jesus you are alive today.
Come and live in my heart.
Jesus be my friend.
Jesus forgive me.
Of all of my sin.
Wash me clean.
With your blood Jesus.
Jesus Christ.
I call upon your name!
SAVE ME NOW!!!
I now belong to Jesus.
And Jesus is in me.
(If you are doing the Holy Spirit later skip this next section)
Holy Spirit fill me with your power.
I receive your power now.
To be a witness for Jesus
I believe with my heart.
What I now speak with my mouth.
In Jesus mighty name.
AMEN!
Clap for Jesus, clap for Jesus!