

## Freedom in Christ

### Lesson 3 — Student Guide

**Prepare for class:** Read Matthew 12:1-14

#### Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is to answer the following question: **What is another gift we have through Christ?**

#### Think

#### Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

#### Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us to do in this lesson?

#### Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

#### Additional questions

13. It is important to make a distinction between God's Commandments and God's dietary and worship laws for his Old Testament people. The Ten Commandments guided people in the Old Testament and New Testament times and still apply today. God gives us his Commandments for our good and for his glory. The Old Testament regulations about circumcision, what to eat, where and how to worship, and what festivals to celebrate no longer must be followed. God's

Word clearly shows that after Christ came and fulfilled the law in our place, we now are free to serve him in new ways. Read Galatians 5:1-5.

- a. The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians. Some Jewish Christians were insisting that new Gentile believers be circumcised to obey the Old Testament law, believing that what Jesus did was not enough to save sinners. Paul gave a stern warning: if you think you must obey the law in order to be saved, you are slaves to the law! Read verse 1:  
How are we made free from the law?
  - b. If people try to be made righteous by obeying the law, what serious problem happens?  
(See verse 4)
  - c. Now read Galatians 5:13. How are we not to use our freedom in Christ?
  - d. What is one way we are to use our freedom in Christ?
14. Martin Luther stressed that we are not saved by the good that we do and the bad that we don't do. Read Ephesians 2:8,9. How are we saved?
15. There are churches today which teach that what Christ did for our salvation is not enough; people must add their good works to what he did. Some teach that people must attend church on the Sabbath day—Saturday—and obey other Old Testament laws. Remember that Jesus fulfilled all the law and is Lord of the Sabbath. After Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday morning, Christians began worshiping on Sundays. What does our freedom in Christ allow us to do?
16. Christ has freed you from your sins! He has freed you from the clutches of the law that you could never obey perfectly! Name some ways you can show the freedom you have in Christ.

### **Lesson wrap-up**

**What is another gift we have through Christ?**