Date: 7/4/20

Title: Proclaim Liberty

Theme: Jesus sets the captives free.

Object: American Flags for each kid. Picture of Liberty Bell. Booklet of Declaration of Independence.

Text: Leviticus 25:10 KJV - 10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

This verse from Leviticus in the OT tells about a special year called the Jubilee year.

Every 50th year was a Jubilee year.

And on that year, if you had to sell your property to someone else, you got it back again.

And if you had to sell yourself or one of your family to be a slave, you got to be free again.

That’s why the verse says “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land.”

Liberty is freedom. Those who were slaves were liberated and set free. They could be their own boss again.

We’re going to talk about liberty and freedom today.

And why today? What special day comes on July 4th? It’s called Independence Day. We also might call it Liberty Day or Freedom Day.

On this day, July 4th way back in the year 1776, the United States of America declared its independence from Great Britain.

That’s when the leaders of our country said we were no longer going to obey the King of England.

We were going to run our own country and have our own flag, and vote for our own leaders.

So Thomas Jefferson sat down and wrote the Declaration of Independence.

I have a copy of what he wrote in this little book. Here’s just a short portion of what he wrote.

[Read from book if available. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness---]

That’s a fancy way of saying that God made us all equal and we have a right to be free.

So we don’t have to pay taxes to some king that lives in another country.

That’s why we all fly the American flag on the 4th of July. It’s a symbol of our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

Have you ever heard of the Liberty Bell? (Show picture.)

This was a big bell that was bought by the city of Philadelphia, the city where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

There is a Bible verse inscribed on this bell, and it’s taken from the verse we read this morning.

Here’s what it says on the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof." Leviticus 25:10.

When Jesus began His ministry, He referred back to the year of Julilee by reading a prophecy that was written by the prophet Isaiah.

Here’s what Jesus said:

Luke 4:18 NKJV - 18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

Jesus declared that he came to fulfill this prophecy.

Because sin has destroyed our relationship with God, we are the ones who are poor and brokenhearted and blind to the truth.

We are the ones who have been taken captive by Satan and are oppressed by the devil.

And Jesus came to die for our sins so that we could be forgiven and set at liberty.

Jesus sets us free from the penalty and power of sin.

Is that good news? We can celebrate liberty and freedom today because Jesus has set us free!!

Let’s ask Him to set us free, what do you say?